PRIEST

5

SIRHC- 2003.12.15

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Translator - Jessica Kim
English Adaptation - Jake Forbes
Cover Artist - Raymond Swanland
Layout- Melissa Hackett
Production Coordinator - Tony DePietro

Senior Editor - Jake Forbes
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Art Director - Matt Alford
VP Production and Manufacturing - Ron Klamert
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email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
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A TOKYOPOP® MANGA

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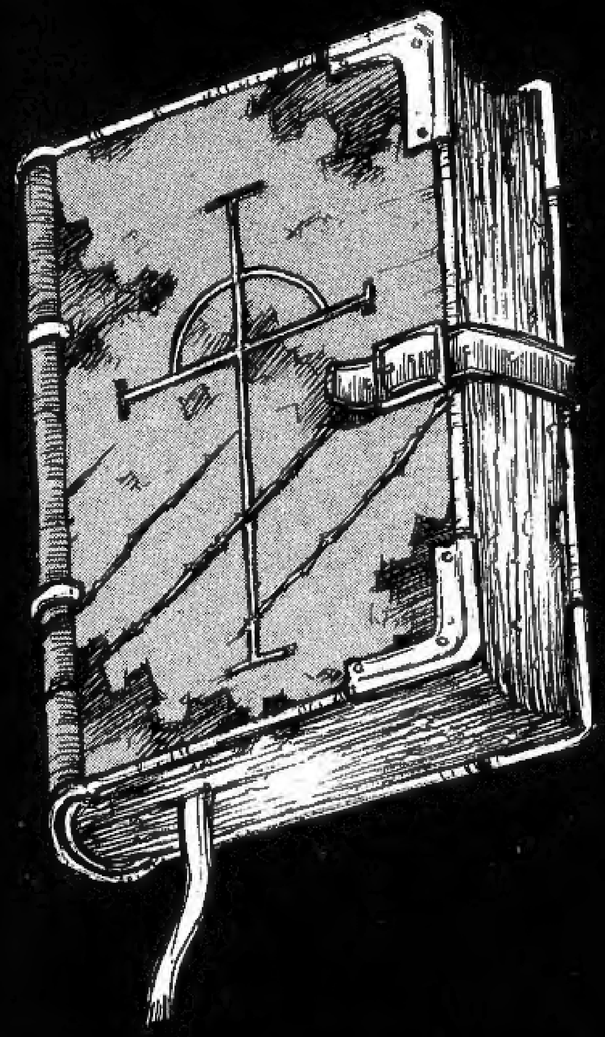
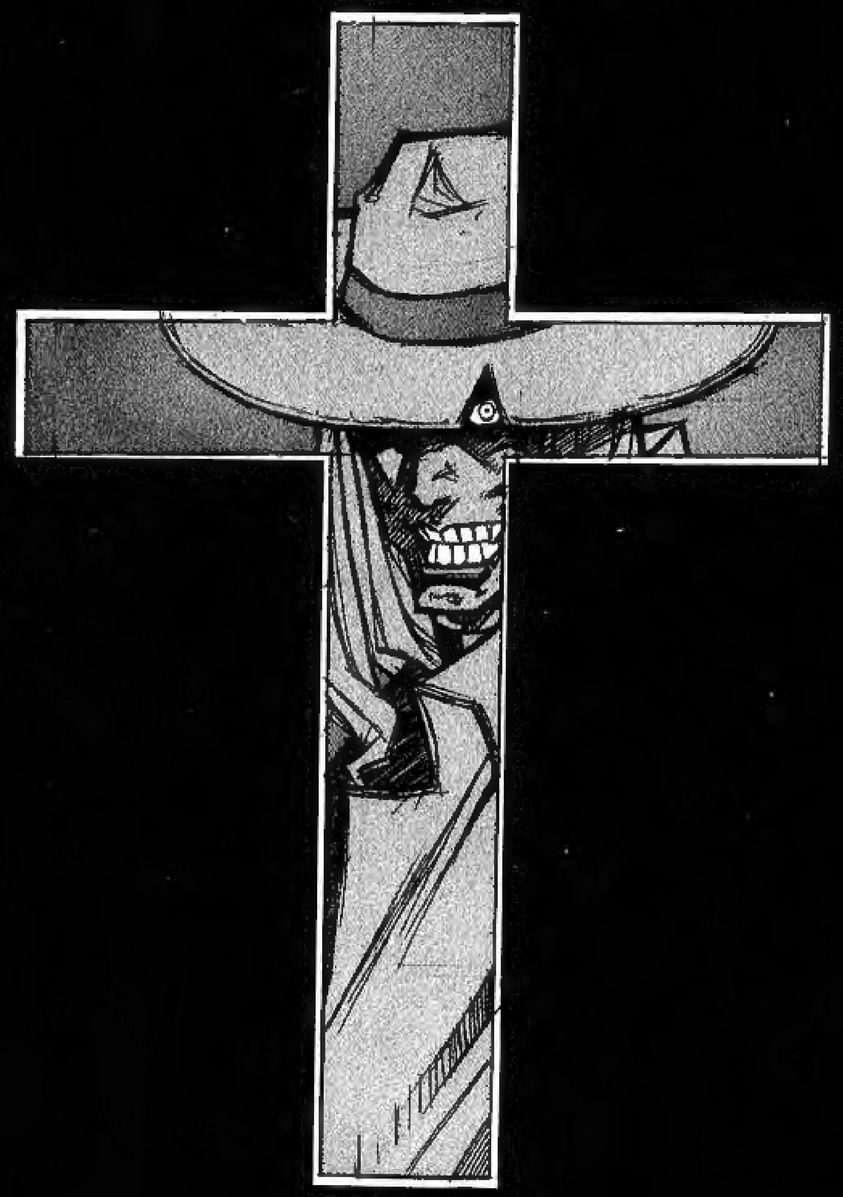


THE STORY SO FAR...

In the frontier of the American West a forgotten war was waged between the followers of Tomozarela, an angel of blood, and those who stood against the darkness. And somewhere in between walked Ivan Isaacs a dead priest who sold his soul to the devil Belial for a second chance at life and the power to get his revenge. Before his tragic fall, Ivan was a religious scholar of great controversy, well respected by his peers. Upon graduating from seminary he is summoned by Father Raul Piestro to a secret monastery where the Domas Poradas, a prison for containing a demon, was stored. With the aid of the Vatican's top scholars, young Ivan searched for the key to the Domas Poradas, but it wasn't until he found an ancient journal from the days of the Crusades, that the pieces fell into place. Let us now rejoin Father Isaacs as he reveals the secrets of the Ballad of a Fallen Angel...

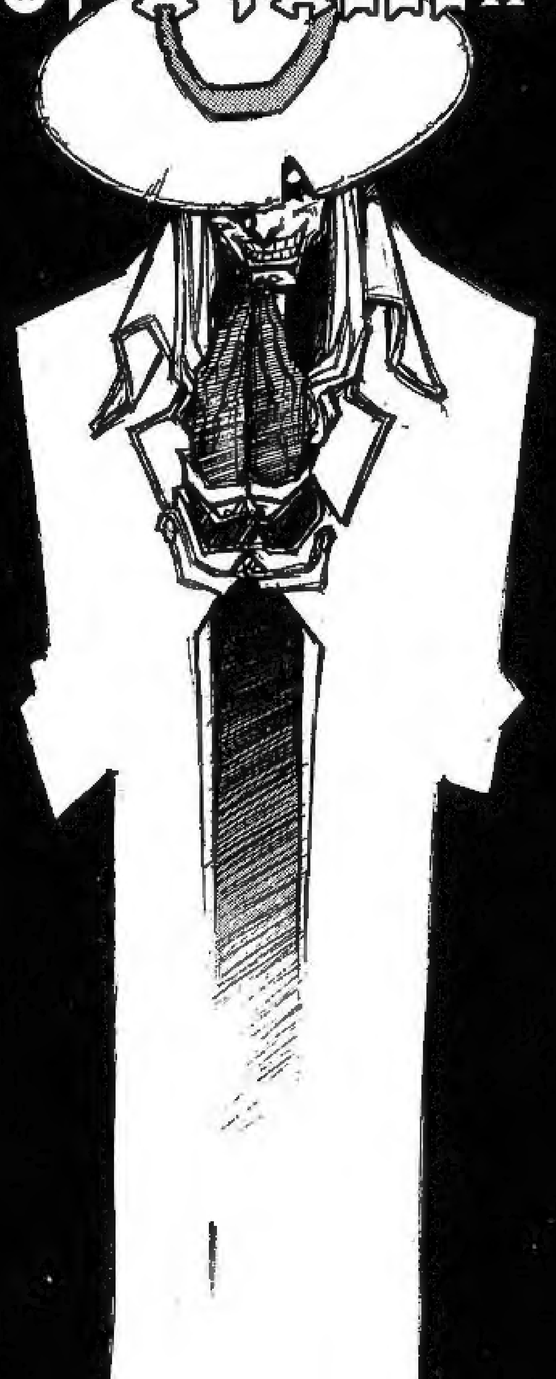


PRIEST

BLADE

5

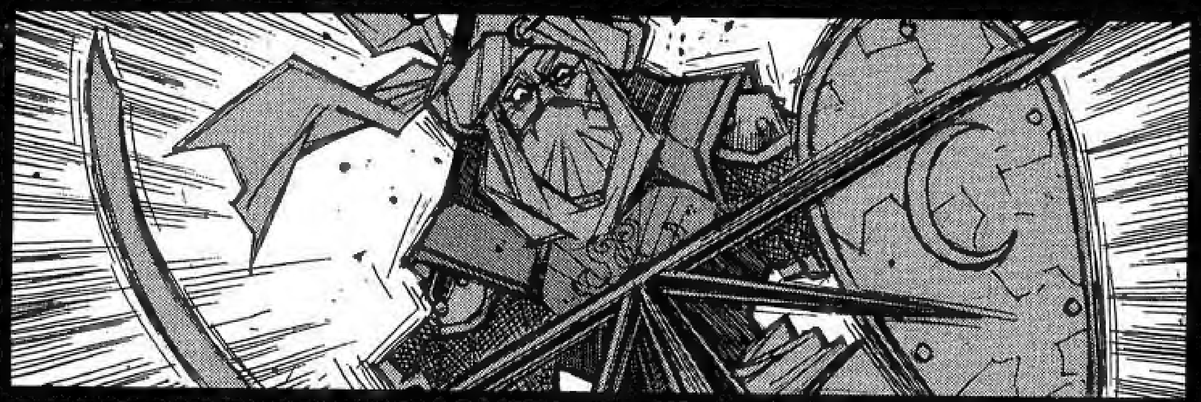
BALLAD OF A FALLEN ANGEL

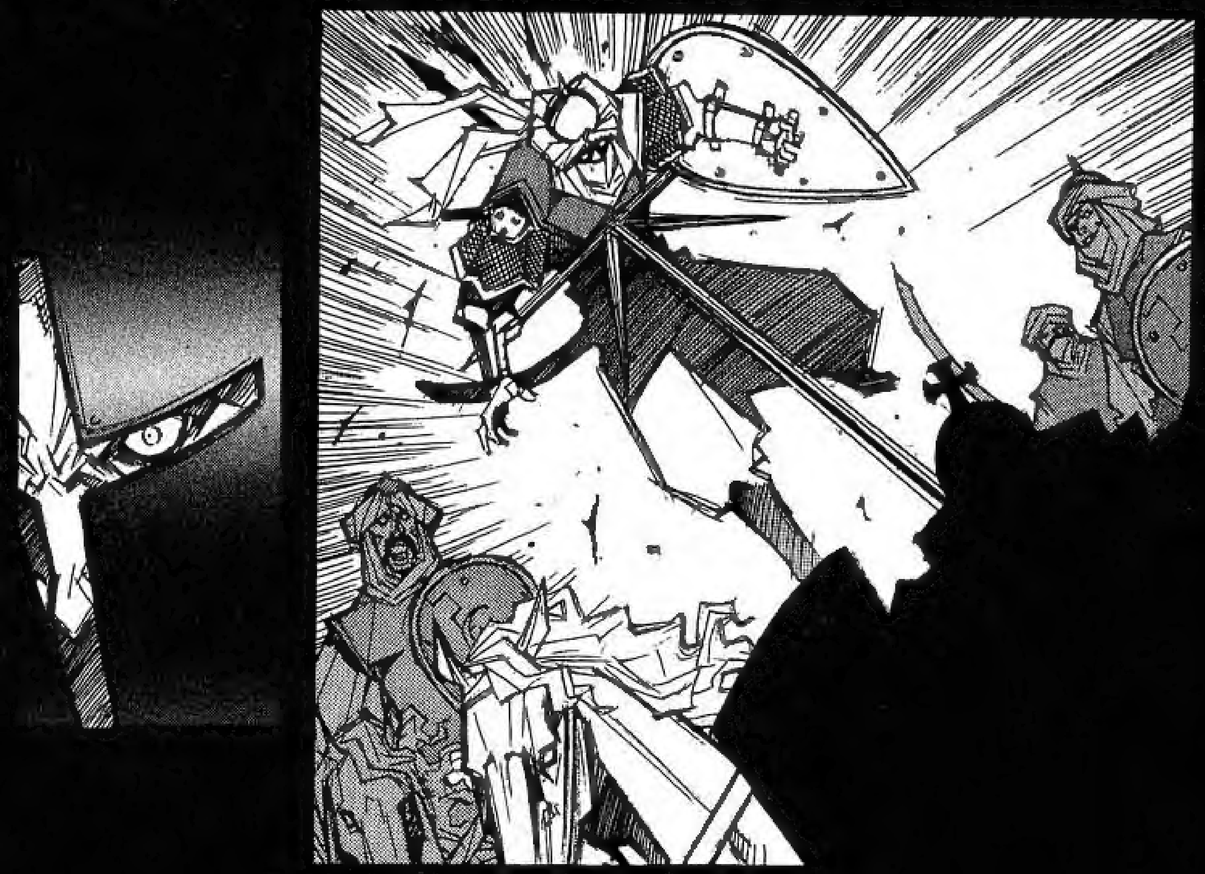


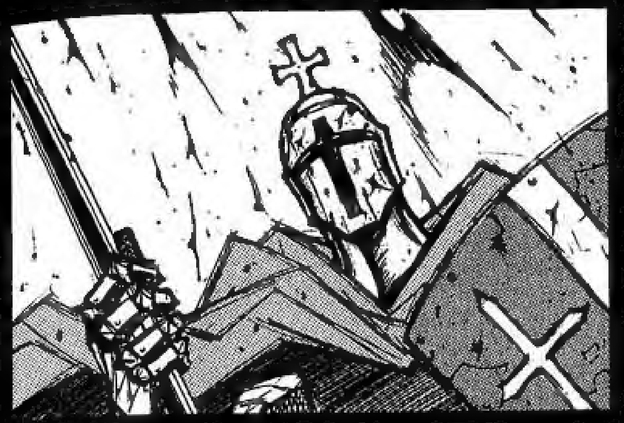
DE GUILLON COMMANDED THE KNIGHTS OF THE 12 CITADELS ...

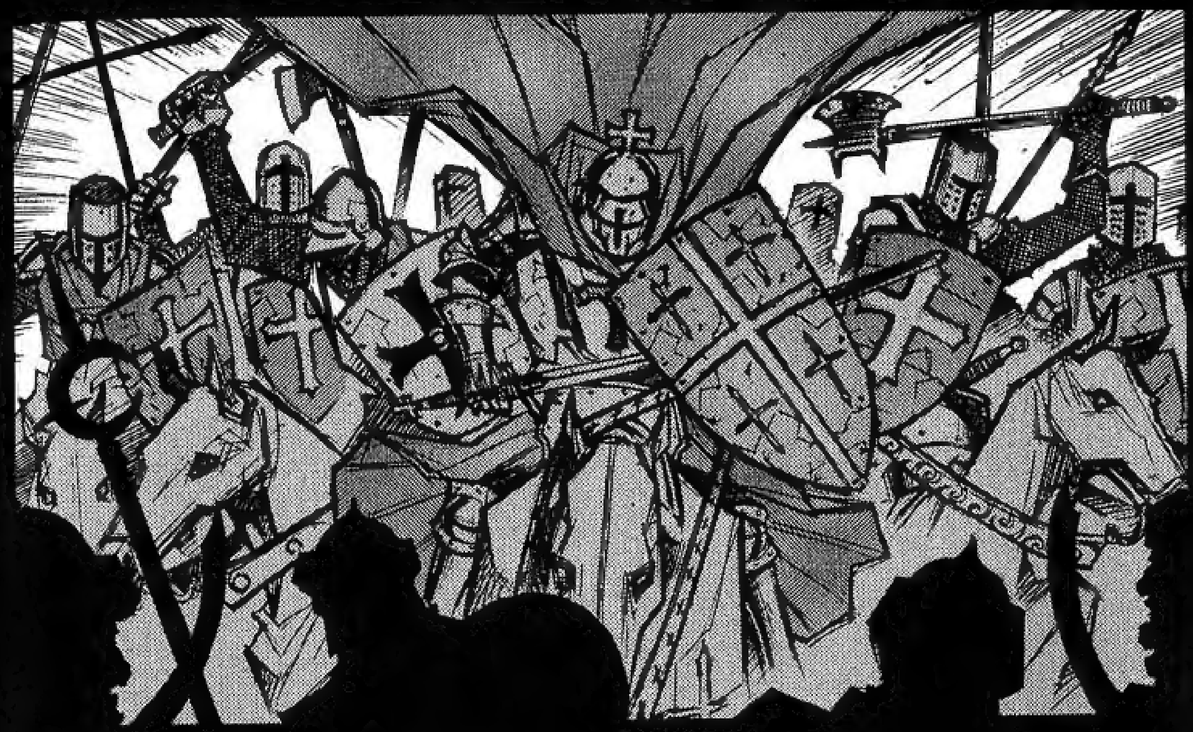
...THE MOST FEARED ARMY IN CHRISTENDOM, AND FOR GOOD REASON.

HE ALSO SERVED AS JUDGE AND EXECUTIONER FOR THE HERETIC TRIALS IN THE DRUANORF REGION.









IN A TIME WHERE FANATICISM WAS EXPECTED IN THE CHURCH, HIS RELIGIOUS PASSION, FUELED BY HIS HATRED FOR THE HERETICS, BURNED BRIGHTEST OF ALL.

WHEN THE POPE ANNOUNCED THE CRUSADE TO RECLAIM THE HOLY LAND FROM THE PAGAN HORDE, DE GUILLON AND HIS ORDER WERE THE FIRST TO RALLY AN ARMY TO THE CAUSE.

PRAISE HIM!

WORSHIP HIM!

'TIS NOT OUR *SWORDS* WHICH BRING US VICTORY THIS DAY ...

... BUT THE *GRACE* OF *CHRIST*, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR!

HIS HOLINESS HAS PROMISED YOU SALVATION FOR YOUR SERVICES HERE, BUT I ASSURE YOU--

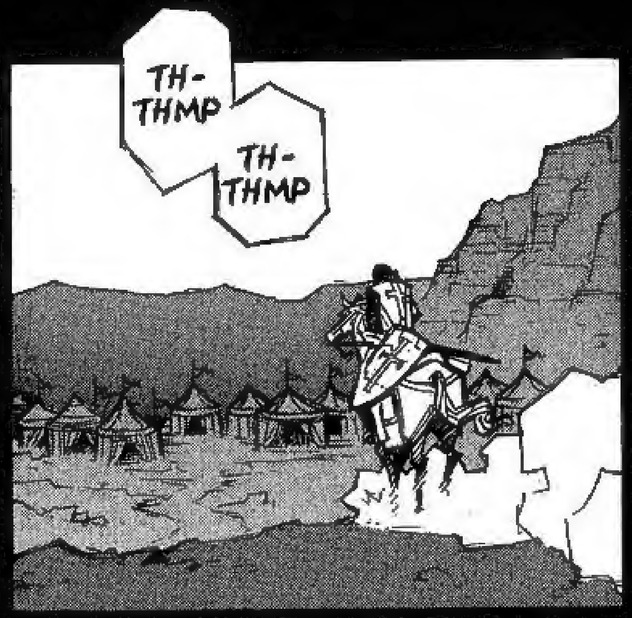
THY SOULS CAN FIND NO PEACE WHILE ONE HERETIC YET WALKS THIS LAND! NOW! LET US PRAY!

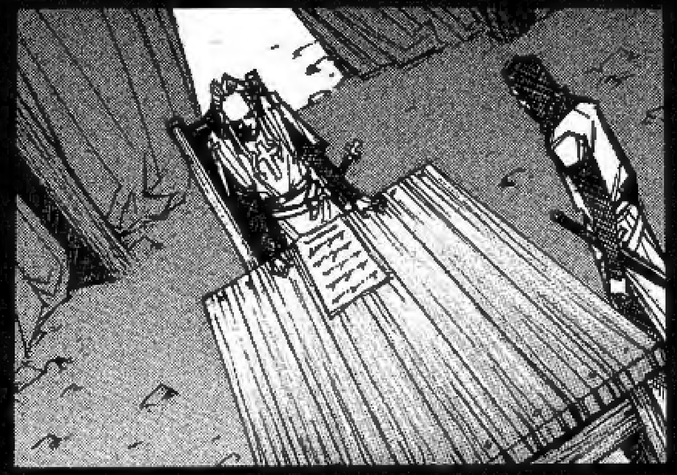
HE NEVER LOST A SINGLE BATTLE.

THE REPUTATION OF VASCAR DE GUILLON AND HIS KNIGHTS OF THE 12 CITADELS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE HOLY LAND...

...INSTILLING FEAR IN THE PAGAN HORDES AND FELLOW CRUSADERS ALIKE. IT WAS AS IF THE ANGEL OF DEATH FOLLOWED HIM.

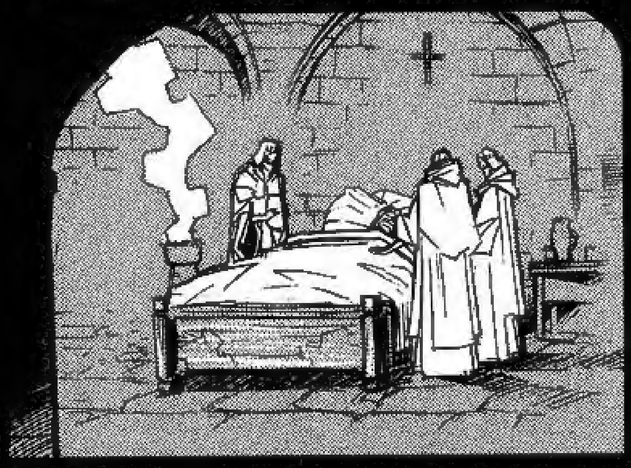
THEN ONE DAY, WHILE CAMPED OUTSIDE OF DAMASCUS, DE GUILLON RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIS HOME COUNTRY.





...CONCERNED SIR VASCAR'S WIFE, MARIANNE...

...AND HIS TWO DAUGHTERS.



MARIANNE WAS CONSUMED BY A PLAGUE UNLIKE ANY THE DOCTORS HAD EVER SEEN.

GASP

GASP

GASP

AS SHE CALLED OUT THE NAMES OF HER HUSBAND AND DAUGHTERS, HER WORDS WERE LOST IN THE BLOOD AND PUS THAT SPILLED FORTH FROM HER ROTTING THROAT.

'TIS NO ORDINARY AFFLICTION WHICH PLAGUES THIS WOMAN.

SHE IS CURSED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF!

IF WE DO NOT DISPOSE OF THIS NOW...

...THE PLAGUE OF SATAN WILL CONSUME OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE!

YOU SPEAK AS IF SHE IS ALREADY DEAD.

LUCIFER HAS CLAIMED HER BODY. WE CAN ONLY PRAY FOR HER SOUL.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. THE WOMAN MUST BE BURNED ALIVE. THE CHILDREN, TOO.

BZZZ

BZZZ

WHEN MARIANNE DIED, SO TOO DID SIR VASCAR'S RELIGIOUS CONVIC-TION.

NOT SO HIS BLOOD-LUST.

THE TRAIL OF DEATH LEFT IN HIS WAKE WAS WIDER THAN EVER.

NO AMOUNT OF BLOOD COULD EXTINGUISH HIS RAGE.

AND SO THE MARCH OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE 12 CITADELS . . . CONTINUED UNABATED.

AGHHHH!!

WITH DE GUILLON LEADING THE CHARGE, THE CRUSADES WERE TRANSFORMED FROM A HOLY WAR...

...TO A SLAUGHTER FUELED BY ONE MAN'S MADNESS.

BEGAN WITH

RETURNED HOME...

THE BANNER OF VASCAR DE GUILLON STILL HOVERED OVER THE HEATHEN LANDS LIKE A PORTENT OF DEATH...

...AND THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS CONTINUED. WITHOUT AN ARMY, WITHOUT PAPAL BLESSING.

SO CONSUMED BY RAGE WAS HE THAT HE NO LONGER KNEW WHAT HIS RAGE WAS DIRECTED AT.

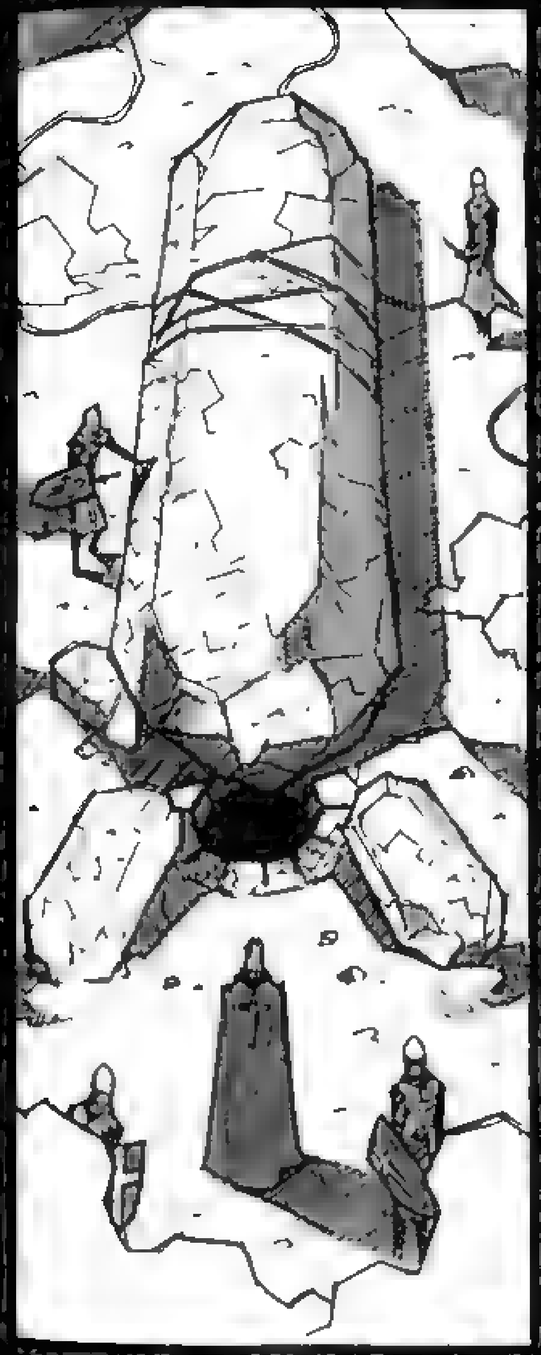
AND SO ON AND ON THE BLOODY MARCH WENT. IT SEEMED THAT NOTHING COULD STOP HIM NOW-- NEITHER ENEMY BLADE NOR THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

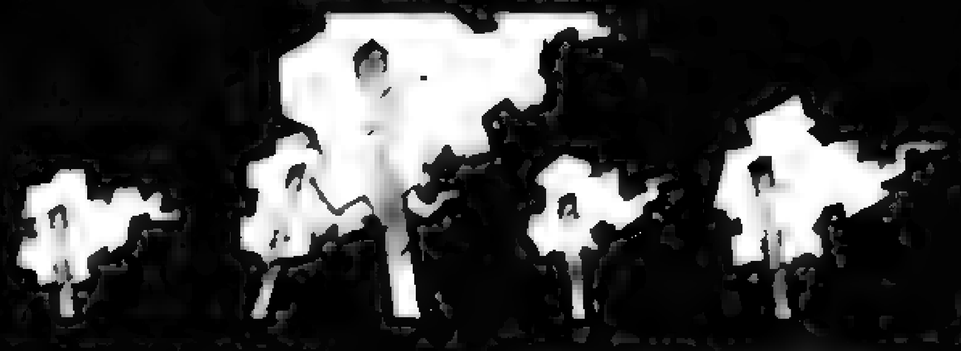
THEN ONE DAY...

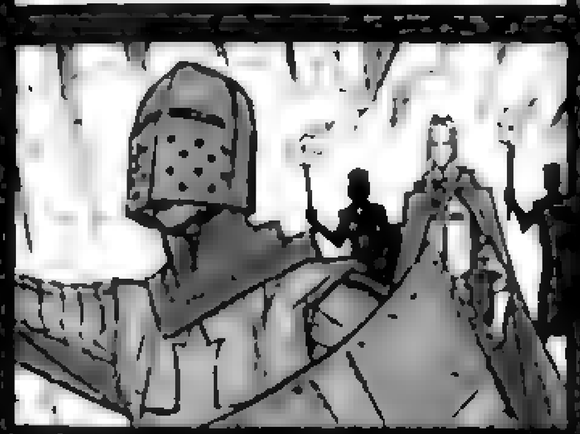
...WHEN SIR VASCAR'S ARMY HAD REACHED THE VERY BOUNDARIES OF THE HEATHEN LANDS...

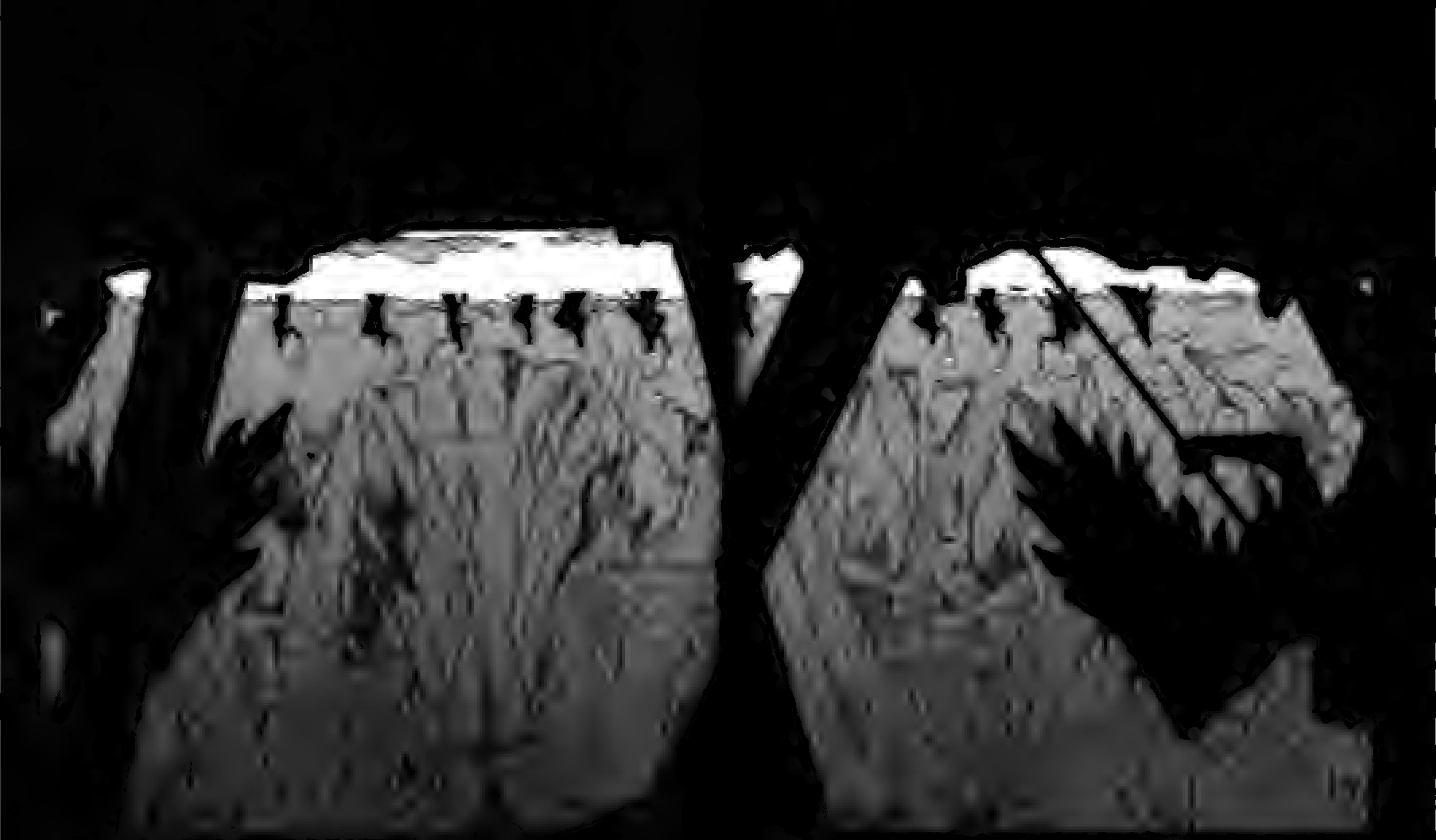
...THEY ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING...

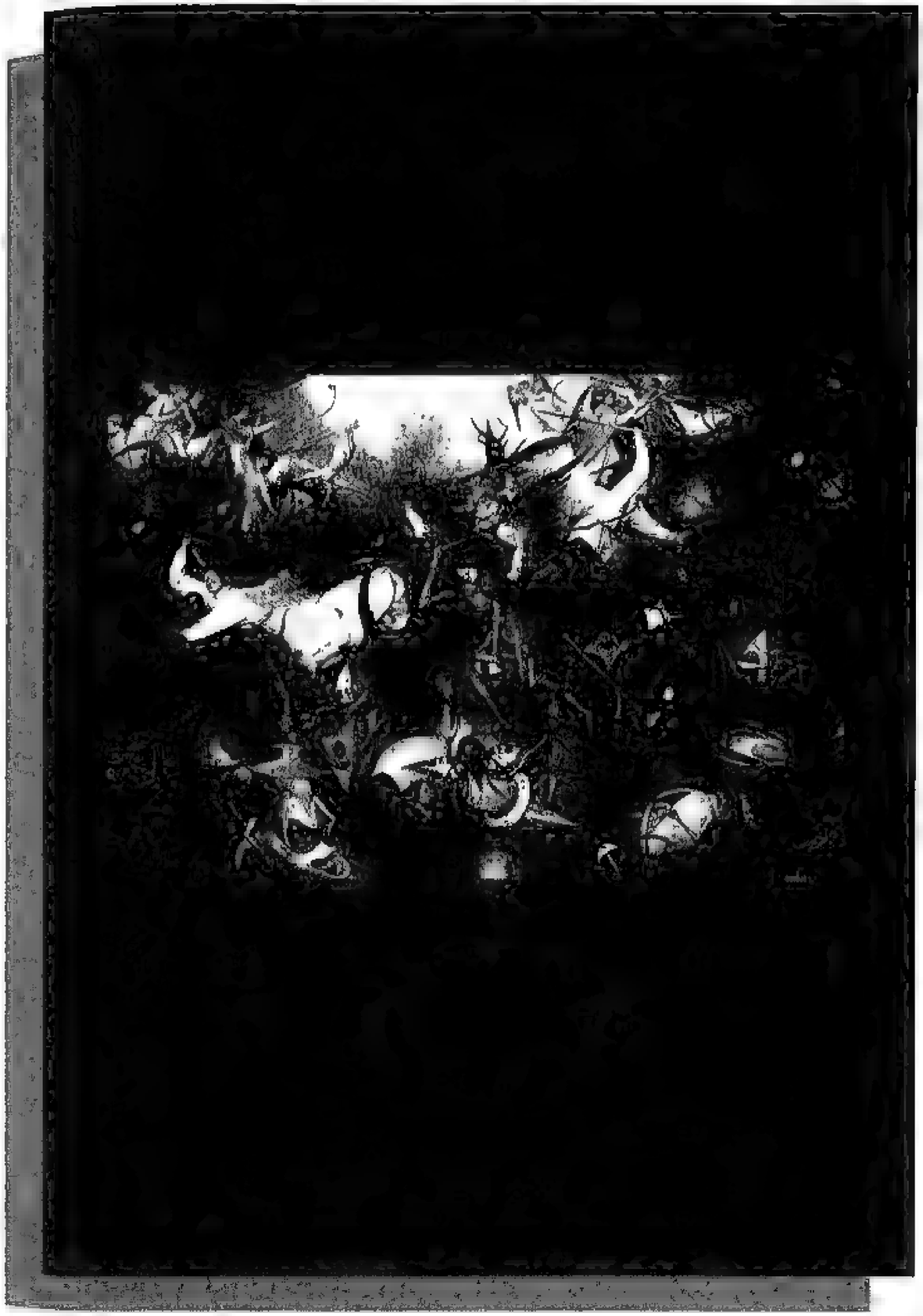
...THAT BROUGHT THE SLAUGHTER TO AN UNEXPECTED END.











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ENJOY!!!

LORD, FOR DECADES HAVE I WALKED THESE LANDS SPILLING THE BLOOD OF THE UNBELIEVERS IN YOUR NAME. YET I LET MY FAMILY BE YET DENY ME DEATH WHY NOW, GOD, DO YOU BRING ME TO THIS PLACE?

YOUR- YOUR VOICE HAS ALWAYS SOUNDED YOU

I HEARD YOUR WRETCHED CRIES I HEARD YOUR RAGE

THAT IS WHY I HEARD YOUR CRIES TO HEAVEN SIR VASCAR

IT IS TRUE THAT MY SOUL IS FILLED WITH ANGER, BUT I SEE NOT WHY I SHOULD TRUST YOU

I THOUGHT YOU STILL KNEW HIS NAME YOU KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE

TELL ME, ANCIENT ONE, HAVE YOU A NAME?

A NAME? YES I KNOW AND BEFORE CREATION YOUR CRAVEN WAS A NAME

I AM CALLED TUMU FARLEN'

MY FOLLOWERS AND I ONCE SERVED GOD AS YOU DID

WE LOVED HIM AS ONLY THOSE WHO CAN LOOK UPON HIS FACE CAN.

EVEN BEFORE CREATION, WE FOUGHT FOR HIM AS YOU DID...

WE GAVE OUR BLOOD TO FIGHT THE ENEMY FOR HIS GLORY

THEN WHY...

WHY THEN ARE YOU HERE IN THE FILTH OF THIS PAGAN EARTH...

...WHEN YOU COULD BE SOARING THE HEAVENS IN *HIS* PRESENCE?

BECAUSE LIKE YOU IT WAS FOR SAKEH.

LIKE YOU MY PRAISE BECAME CRIES OF PAIN. MY PRAYERS BECAME CURSES. WE WALK THE SAME PATH, YOU AND I.

FATE HAS BROUGHT YOU TO ME.

NOW LISTEN TO THE SONG OF MY FALL...

THE FALL OF LUCIFER MORNINGSTAR, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND BELOVED OF ALL ANGELS... STARTED A WAR WHICH SHOOK THE HEAVENS FOR AGES.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ETERNITY, OUR FAITH WAS PUT TO THE TEST.

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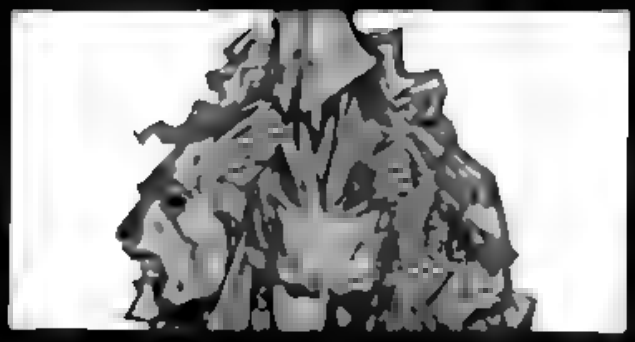
ENJOY!!!

WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER, THE REMAINING FOLLOWERS OF LUCIFER WERE CAST FROM THE FIRMAMENT INTO THE SULPHUROUS PIT OF HELL.

AT LAST THOSE OF US WHO HAD REMAINED TRUE TO GOD COULD BASK ONCE MORE IN HIS GRACE.



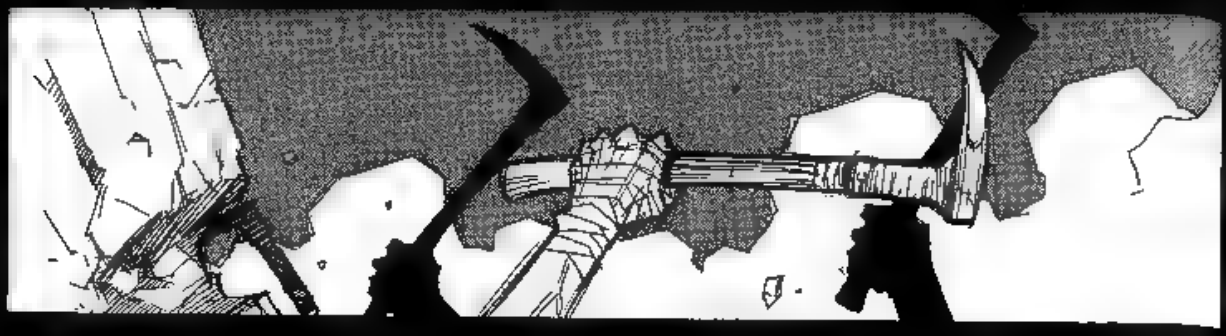
BUT GOD NO LONGER LOVED US AS HE ONCE DID.

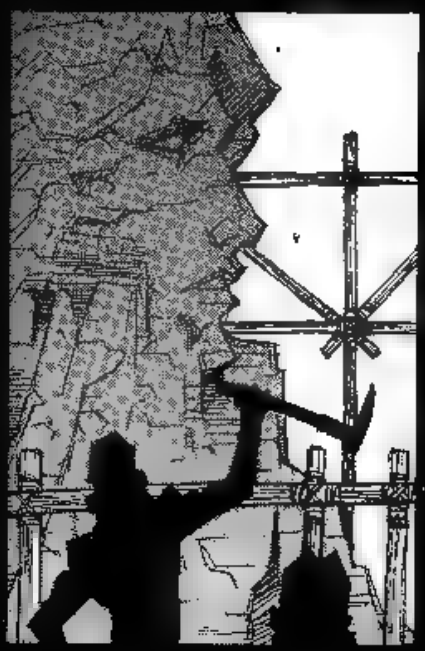
GREEDY. ARROGANT. DECEITFUL— GOD GAVE THEM A LIST OF EXACTLY WHAT NOT TO DO, AND HOW DO THEY RESPOND? BY FLAGRANTLY BREAKING THOSE RULES. AND YET GOD STILL LOVED THEM.
IT WAS THEM THAT I BEGAN TO QUESTION THE WORD OF GOD. NO... NOT JUST HIS WORD... HIS SANITY.

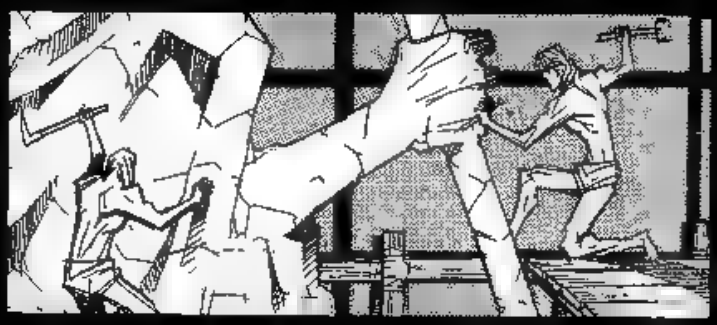
WE LOVED HIM SINCE BEFORE THE CREATION AND HE FORSOOK US FOR THOSE INHERENTLY FLAWED VERMIN?

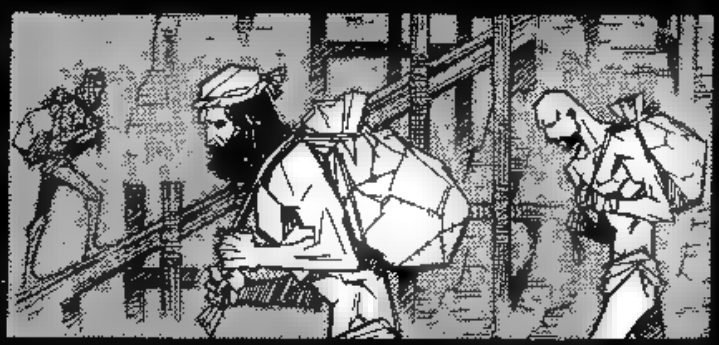
SO GOD CARES NOT, FOR HIS OWN RULES... MY BRETHREN AND I DECIDED TO BREAK A FEW DIVINE LAWS FOR OURSELVES.

WE DESCENDED FROM THE FIRMAMENT AND REVEALED OURSELVES TO THE HUMANS. IT WAS TIME WE TAUGHT GOD A LESSON.

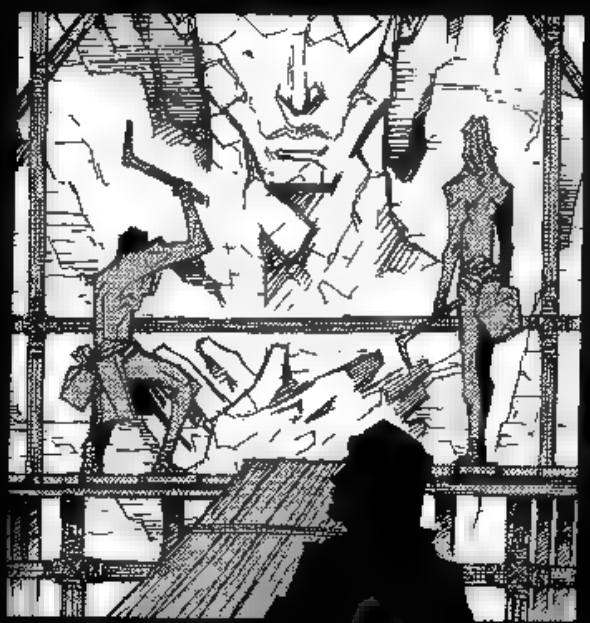








IT WAS FAITH THAT BOUND THE HUMANS TO GOD...



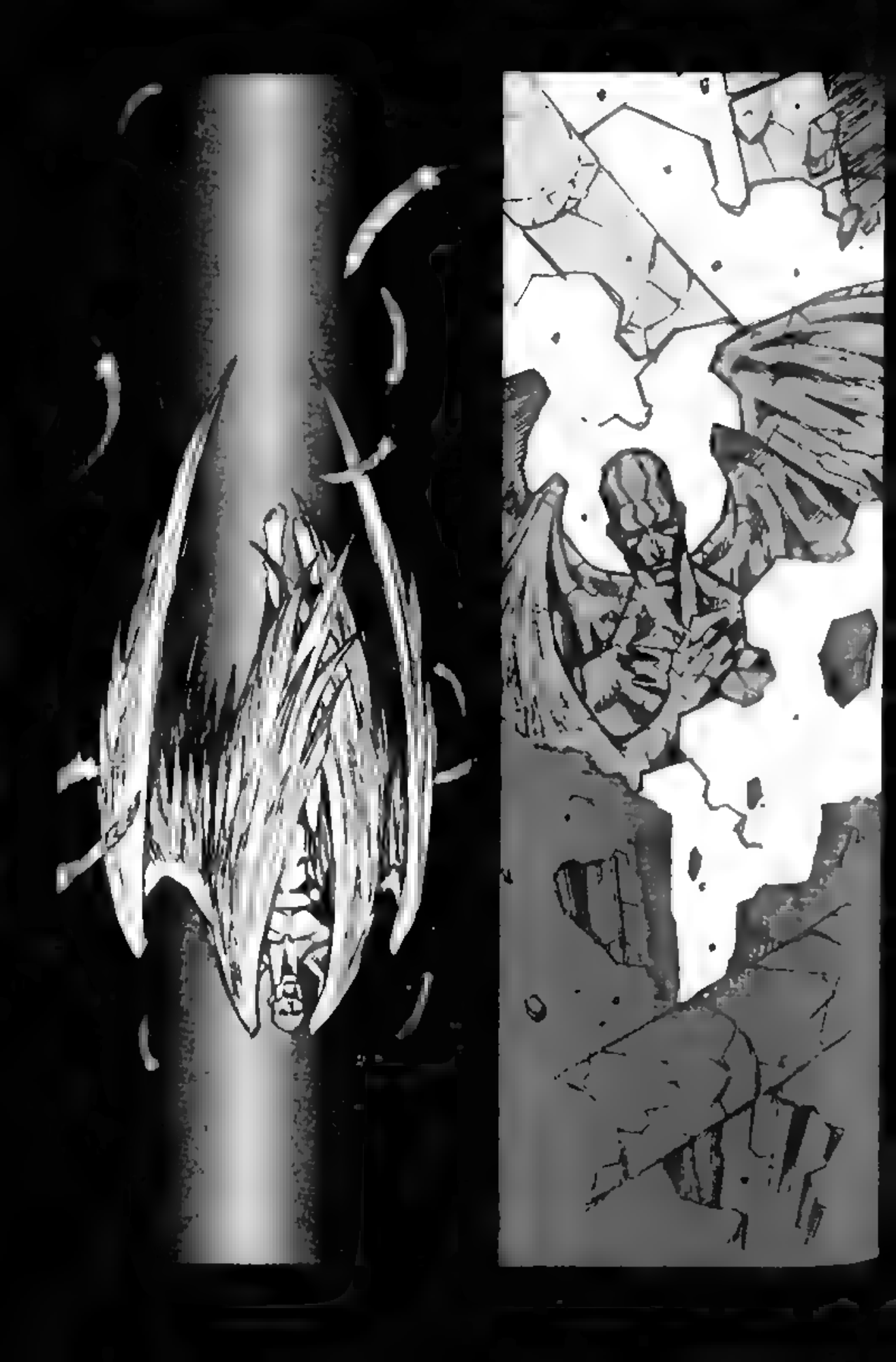
...SO I WOULD SHOW GOD JUST HOW FRAGILE THIS THING CALLED "FAITH" COULD BE!

...That the root of human imperfection...
...is faith

WHEN

...WAS HIS WRATH.
...THAT CUT BETWEEN OUR SWORDS WITH...

...WAS HIS WRATH.



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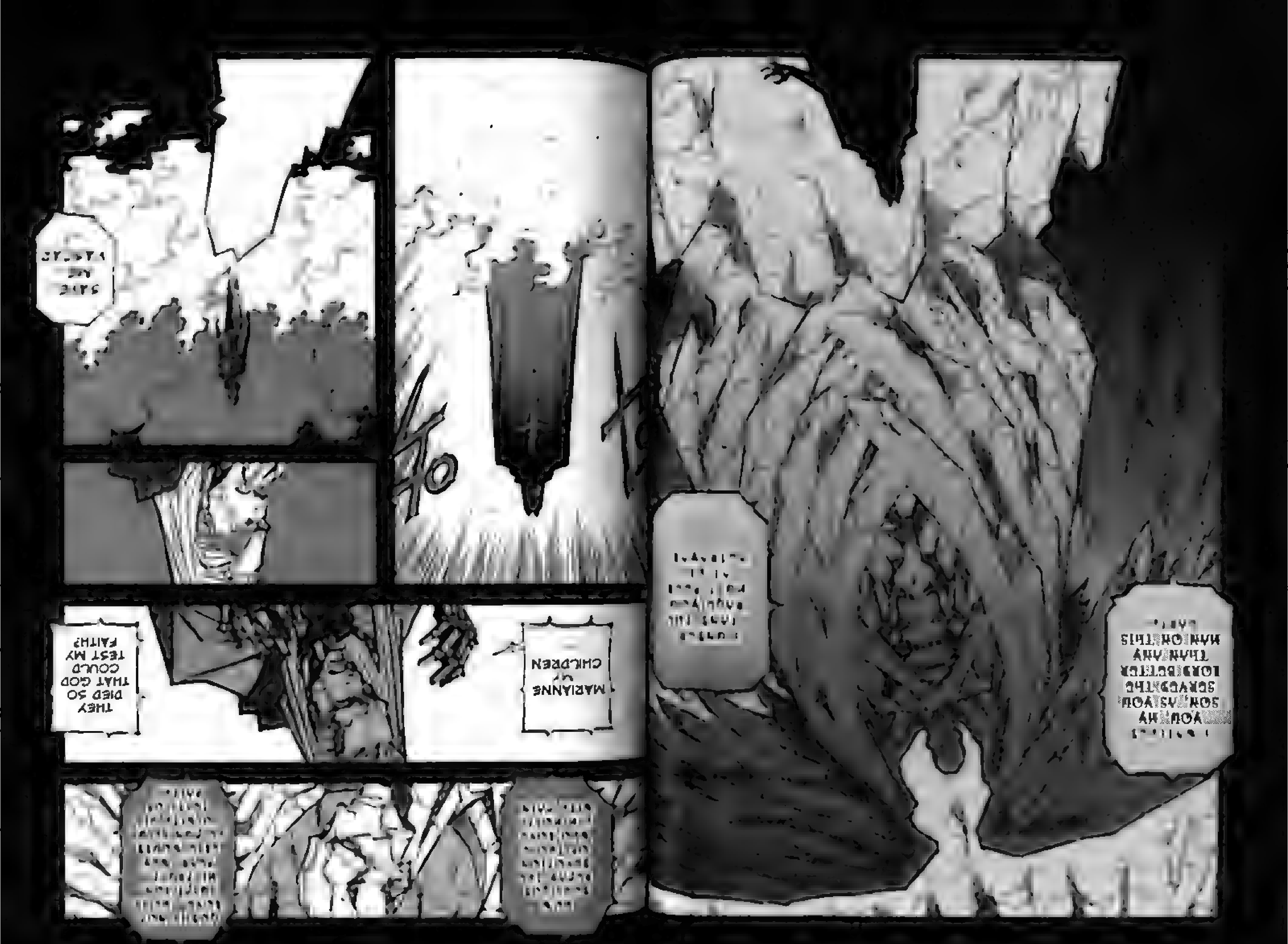
MARIANNE
OF
CHILDREN
THEY DIED SO THAT GOD COULD TEST MY FAITH?

S... SAVE ME...

...MY LOVE.

TH... THE PAIN...

... NEVER STOPS... IN THIS PLACE.

YASCAR ...

MARI-ANNE!

THE PAIN... PLEASE! MAKE IT STOP!

MARI-ANNE!

WHY...

WHY... IS GOD ...

... TESTING MY FAITH?

WHY ...?

GOD'S SUSPICION OF HIS CREATIONS KNOWS NO BOUNDS. HE WILL CONTINUE TO TEST

MANKIND, JUST AS HE DID HIS ANGELS AND IN TIME, HE WILL CAST MANKIND ASIDE AS HE DID US

THEN MY CRUSADE, MY MISSION OF FAITH ...

...ENDS HERE.

GOD OF DECEIT ...

...I CURSE YOU!

AS SURELY AS ONCE...

...I EMBRACED YOUR WORD. I SPIT ON IT NOW FOR THE LIES IT REPRESENTS!

DO YOU HEAR ME, LORD? I SHALL CURSE THY NAME EVEN UNTO DEATH!

VASCAR DE GUILLON!

OFFER YOUR BODY TO ME!

BECOME MY VESSEL SO THAT I MIGHT LEAD THE RACE OF MEN TO A WORLD OF SUPRAVITY AND SUFFERING!

I WILL TAKE MANKIND BEYOND THE REALM OF SALVATION! THAT WILL BE MY REVENGE TO GOD!

MASTER TEMO-ZARELA!

TAKE ME!

MY SOUL IS YOURS!

BE BORN AGAIN ON THIS EARTH THROUGH MY BODY...

...AND TAKE YOUR REVENGE !!

LET MY BODY BE USED THAT TOGETH-ER...

...WE MIGHT CURSE THE NAME OF GOD!

CRACK

CRACK

CRACK

CRACK

THWP!

CRACK

CRACK

!!

CRACK

THWP!

I've never seen those kinds of powers before.

Who are you?

I am the angel who closes the path of darkness and my sword is sharp.

Shall I kill them?

No, leave them. Let them tell what they've seen.

THE RACE OF MEN SHALL LOSE ALL FAITH IN THEIR CREATOR.

I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!

SIRHC- 2004.01.26

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ENJOY!!!

THIS JOURNAL IS THE ONLY ACCOUNT ...

...OF SIR VASCAR'S CRUSADE.

...IT WAS RECORDED UPON HIS RETURN TO FRANCE WHERE HE WAS PUT ON TRIAL AS A HERETIC...

...OVER 100 YEARS AFTER HE AND HIS MEN HAD DEPARTED.

NO...

THAT'S NOT POSS-IBLE.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR LEGENDS AND FAIRY TALES

FATHER ISAACS DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT FANTASY HAS ANY BEARING ON THE CHALLENGE AT HAND?

IF IT IS IN THAT BOOK, FATHER CLEMENS ...

...THEN YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT IT IS TRUE.

FATHER PESTRO ...

SURELY YOU ARE NOT SURPRISED THAT THE CHURCH MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN TO... FORGET...

CERTAIN UNFAVOR-ABLE INCIDENTS IN OUR GLORIOUS PAST.

AM I TO BE VERY FEW...

...WHO KNOWS ABOUT THAT EXPED-ITION.

BUT THERE'S MORE...

...ISN'T THERE, FATHER IVAN.

THERE IS A THIRD FIGURE TIED INTO YOUR FANTASTIC TALE.

...!

A THIRD PERSON ...?

BETHEAL...

BETHEAL [illegible]

...!

HE WAS THE MAN WHO...

WHO IS...

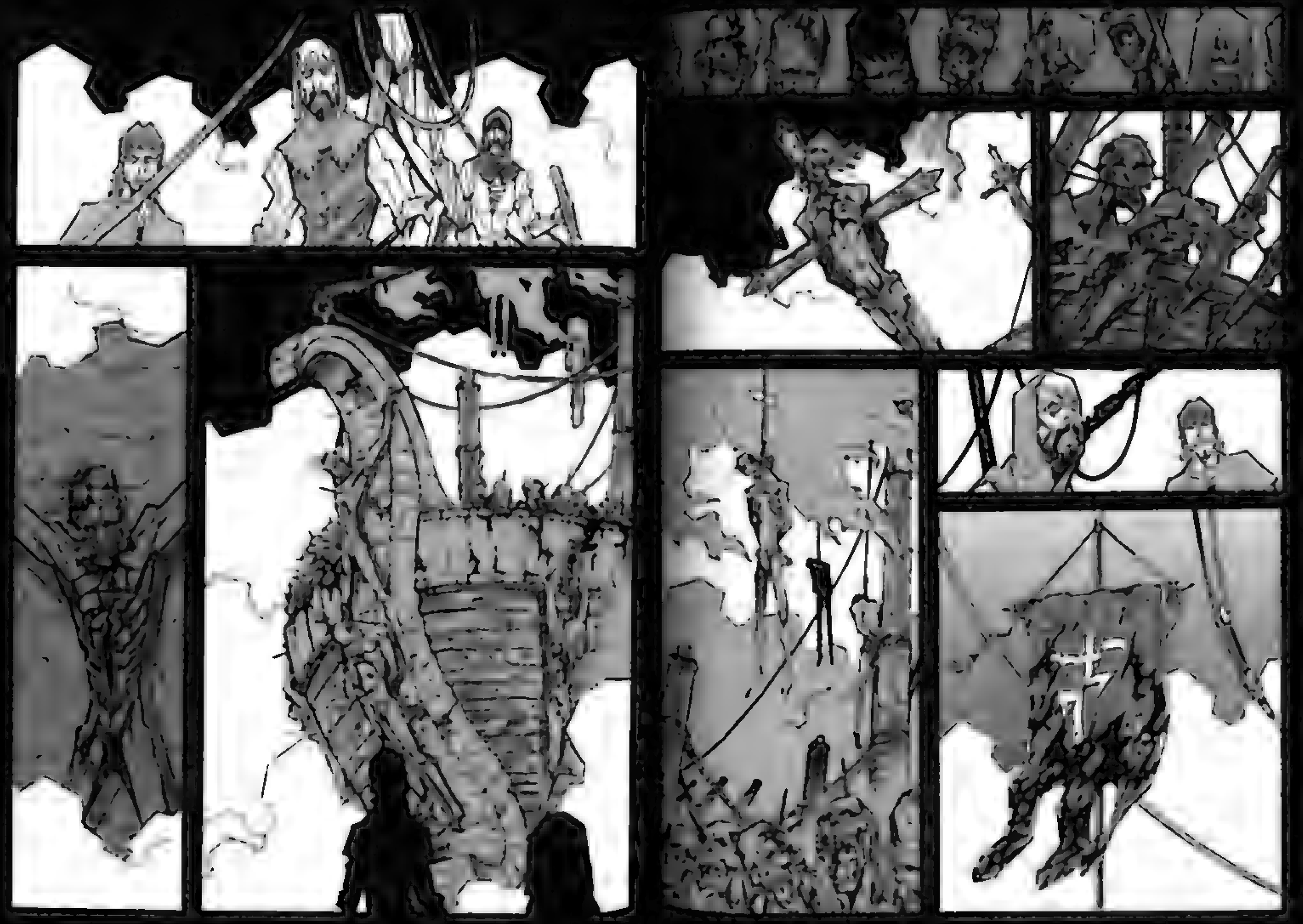
WHO IS THIS MAN?

...TRIED SIR VASCAR AS A HERETIC.

HE WAS ALSO THE FIRST PERSON THAT TEMOZARELA WOULD TRY TO CORRUPT ...

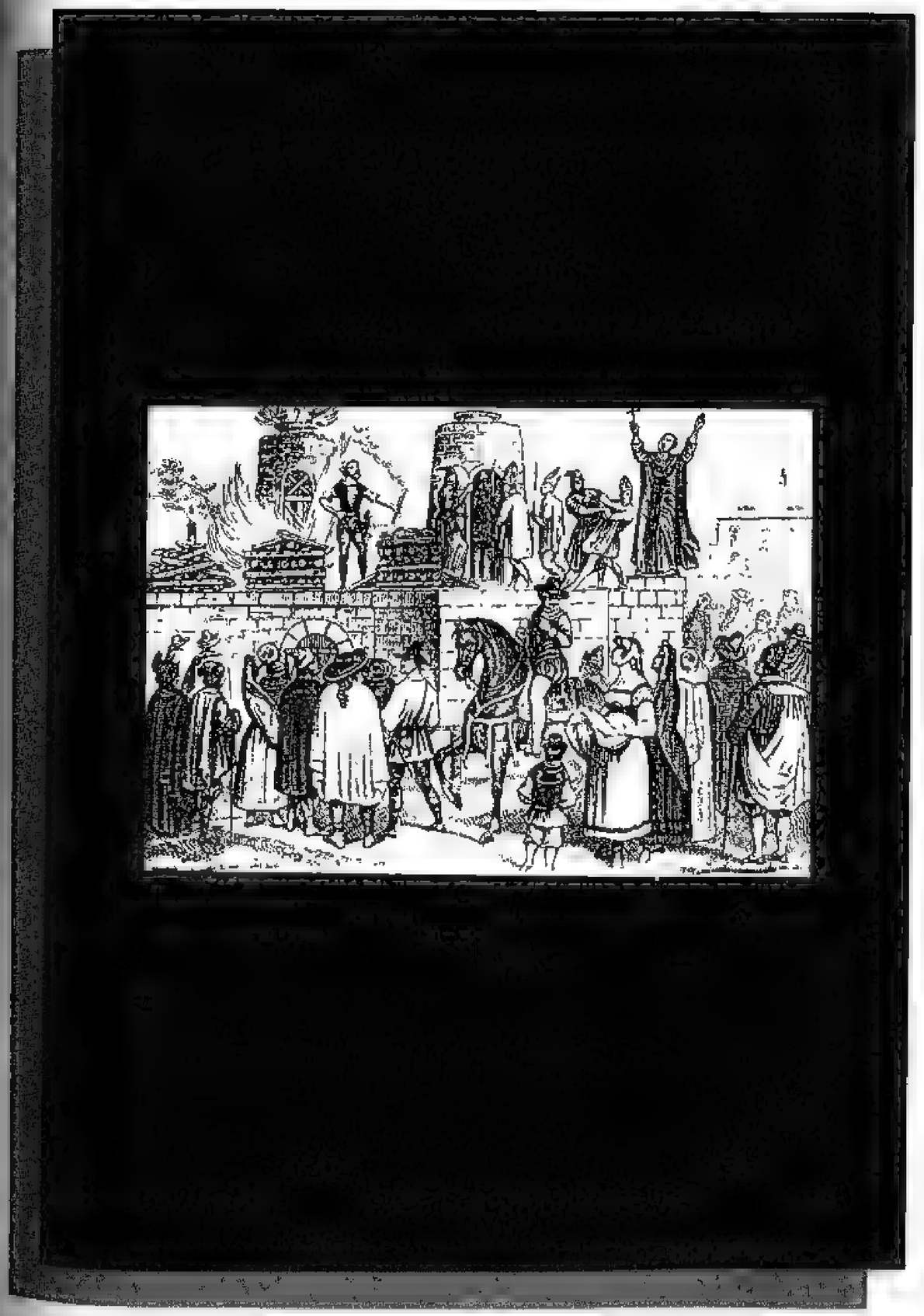
...IN HIS NEW MORTAL FORM.

THE FIRST MEETING TOOK PLACE...



AND THUS BEGAN THE BATTLE OF WILLS...

...THAT WOULD FOREVER CHANGE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHURCH.



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ENJOY!!!

BURN THEM!

SHE'S A WITCH!

BURN THE WITCHES !!

BLASPHEMERS! TOAD-EATERS! PARSEL-MOUTHS!

KILL THEM!

BURN THEM!

GOD'S WILL BE DONE!

NOOO! I'M NOT A WITCH!

WE ONLY DID WHAT WE WAS TOLD!

WE DONE NOTHING! WE'RE INNOCENT!

'T'S ALL MADAME'S FAULT! SHE'S MADE US DO IT!

IT'S HER! SHE'S SATAN'S WHORE!

SHE'S THE ONE WHAT'S BEEN PROPHE-SIZING!

COUNTESS CECILIA ATTILDA! AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDER-ATION...

...AND WITH THE GUIDANCE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST ,

...THIS COURT FINDS YOU AND YOUR FOUR SERVANTS *GUILTY* ...

...OF THE MOST HEINOUS SIN OF *WITCH-CRAFT!*

YOU AND YOUR SATANIC SISTERS ARE HEREBY SENTENCED...

...TO BE BURNED AT THE STAKE UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD!

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOULS!

OH, GOD! NO!

WAIT! WHAT ABOUT MY BABY?!

I'M INNOCENT! INNOCENT!

FWOOSH!

FATHER

PLEASE ...

WE WERE USED!!!

IT'S HER!

SHE'S THE WITCH!

HE HE HE

...HE HE HE HE HE
HEH HEH HEH
HEH HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA!!!

DO YOU WANT A WITCH?

I'LL COME BACK FROM HELL AS A *REAL* WITCH! I'LL FLY AROUND ON MY BROOM-STICK AND EAT YOUR BABIES!!

DEAR LORD ...

AH! AAH! AAAAH!

AND YOU-- I'VE SEEN *YOUR* FUTURE.

AS SURELY AS I NOW BURN, YOUR SOUL WILL FEEL THE FIRES OF HELL!

YOU WILL EMBRACE TRUE EVIL AND KNOW PAIN GREATER THAN ANY MAN HAS EVER KNOWN!

ALL THAT YOU HOLD DEAR WILL BE TAKEN FROM YOU!

OH MY... SHE'S A WITCH, ALL RIGHT.

DIDN'T I TELL YA? I TOLD YA SHE WAS A WITCH!

HE HE HE HE HE!

GO AHEAD, BURN ME! THAT'S WHAT GOD WOULD WANT, ISN'T IT? BURN ME, YOU ZEALOTS!

...!

SILENCE!

WHORE OF BABYLON!

THE LORD OFFERS YOU THIS ONE LAST CHANCE FOR SALVATION!

CAST OUT THY DEMON AND ACCEPT HIS GRACE. BE THANKFUL OF HIS MERCY!

DOST THOU CURSE THE NAME OF SATAN AND HIS BLACK ARTS?

LET THESE FLAMES BURN AWAY YOUR SINS! REPENT!

REPENT!

REPENT!

ARGH AH! AGH!

REPENT!

ARGH AH! AGH!

REPENT!

WITCH HUNTER AND HERETIC TRIAL JUDGE FOR THE CORDOVA AND GRANADA REGIONS...

...HIS NAME WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT CHRISTENDOM--

BETHEAL GAVARRE!

BECAUSE OF HIS EXTREME METHODS OF EXTRACTING REPENTANCE, PEOPLE BEGAN CALLING HIM "SAINT OF THE CONFLAGRATION."

IF EVER THERE WAS A PRIEST WHO RIVALED THE ZEALOUSNESS OF VASCAR DE GUILLON, IT WAS HE.

YES, YES. FATHER GAVARRE. THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

DONG

DONG

DONG

THE WITCH TRIALS IN PARIS ARE GOING WELL, I ASSUME?

I TRUST, CARDINAL, THAT YOU DIDN'T SUMMON ME ALL THIS WAY.

...TO DISCUSS WITCHES. THE VATICAN HAS WITCH-HUNTERS OF ITS OWN, AND I'M A BUSY MAN.

TRUE. YES, YES.

LET ME GET TO THE POINT. WE HAVE A VERY.. SENSITIVE TRIAL IN NEED OF A JUDGE.

THIS IS NO MERE WITCH.

THE TRIAL MUST BE HELD UNDER THE STRICTEST SECRECY!

SECRE-CY?

YES, YES. NONE BUT YOU CAN BE PRESENT.

ORDERS FROM THE HOLY FATHER HIMSELF, YES.

I DO NOT LIKE CLOSED DOORS, CARDINAL.

IF THE ACCUSED IS AS IMPORTANT AS YOU SAY, THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE THERE TO--

TCK!

FATHER GAVARRE..!

HAVE YOU HEARD...

...OF SIR VASCAR DE GUILLON?

A PEER OF YOURS, I BELIEVE, THOUGH SOME CENTURIES REMOVED.

HUFF

HUFF

HE WAS LAST SEEN IN THE 11TH CENTURY WHEN HE D'SAPPEARED INTO THE DESERT FOL-LOWING THE CRUSADES.

HE HAS RETURNED.

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ENJOY!!!

SOME FISHERMEN FOUND HIS BOAT ADRIFT NEAR CORSICA AND BROUGHT DE GUILLON AND HIS MEN TO THEIR VILLAGE. WE THINK THIS HAPPENED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE. WHEN OUR MEN REACHED THE VILLAGE, EVERY INHABITANT HAD BEEN RITUALLY SLAIN... AND *EATEN.*

HE AND HIS ACCOMPLICES ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN SECRECY AT THE MONASTERY OF LOURDES. IF YOU DEPART NOW, YOU SHOULD REACH IT WITHIN THE WEEK.

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

MASTER !!

I AM HERE FOR YOU!!

I AM YOURS TO COM-MAND, MASTER!

SHOW US MERCY!

TAKE US, MASTER !!

DELIVER US FROM THE LIGHT!

SHOW US YOUR POWER!

TH-THMP

LET US SERVE YOU, MASTER!

SHOW US YOUR DARK SABBATH!

FREE US FROM THIS LAND OF SUFFER-ING!

MASTER !!

WE WILL WAIT FOR YOU!

GENERAL --

YES, SIR!

ARREST THESE HERETICS.

I'LL HAVE A SEPARATE TRIAL FOR THEM ..

...WHEN THIS IS OVER.

HE'S THE LAST CRUSADER TO RETURN FROM THE EXPEDITIONS.

WE THOUGHT THAT THOSE AHEM EMBARRASSING YEARS WERE BEHIND US

CLINK

CLINK

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, DE GUILLON SEEMS TO HAVE CONVERTED TO THE BELIEFS OF THE HERETICS.

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

WE CANNOT ALLOW HIS MIRACULOUS REVIVAL AND TREACHERY TO BE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH WITH THAT WAR

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

PLEASE, FATHER GAVARRE!

DO NOT LET ANYONE FIND OUT ABOUT THIS TRIAL!

REMOVE

CAW!

...HIS EYES!

CLINK

VASCAR DE GUILLON!

DUKE OF SANTI-MONT.

ALSO THE HERETIC TRIAL JUDGE OF DRUANORF DISTRICT...

...AND COMMANDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE 12 CITADELS!

FROM 1095 TO 1101, YOU AND YOUR MEN FOUGHT VALIANTLY.

YOUR SERVICES WERE INSTRU-MENTAL IN THE SIEGE OF ANTI-OCH...

.. AND AT JERUSALEM, YOUR MEN SLAUGH-TERED MORE PAGANS THAN ANY OTHER GROUP.

QUITE A RECORD, VASCAR.

THY DEDICATION TO THE CROSS IS... COMMEND-ABLE.

YOUR RECORD MEANS *NOTH-ING.*

BUT FIRST ...

TELL ME...

...WHAT DEMON GAVE YOU YOUR UNHOLY LIFE?

YOU ARE AN ABOMINA-TION UNTO THE LORD...

...A FES-TERING SORE TO BE WIPED OUT.

TELL ME HIS NAME! WHO IS YOUR MASTER?!

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ENJOY!!!

ARE YOU PREPARED TO ACCEPT YOUR DESTINY, FATHER GAVARRE

...AND TAKE IT INTO YOUR OWN HANDS?

WHAT...

...DID YOU JUST SAY?

AND YOU, GAVARRE-- CAN *YOU* EMBRACE *YOUR* HATRED?

YOU SAY YOU ARE NOT DE GUILLON' DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?!

YOU ARE NO MORE "POSSESSED" THAN I! MORE LIES AND DECEIT WILL NOT SAVE YOU FROM YOUR JUDGEMENT, HERETIC

VASCAR DE GUILLON WAS WEAK.

...AND SO HE SURREN-DERED HIS BODY TO ME.

CLINK

HE WAS UNABLE TO ACT ON HIS TRUE FEELINGS ...

JUDGE-MENT? YES...

VASCAR AND I BOTH SHED BLOOD EXECUTING GOD'S JUDGE-MENT.

A LOT OF GOOD THAT DID FOR OUR FATES, EH? YOU TOO WILL SEE...

SILENCE, EVIL ONE!

HOW DARE YOU BEFOUL YOUR HONORABLE PAST!

I WILL NOT TOLERATE SUCH BLASPHEMY !!

HARD THOUGH IT BE TO BELIEVE, YOU WERE ONCE A MAN OF GREAT FAITH. HOW GREAT YOUR FALL, WORM

HEH HEH HEH

YOU LECTURE ME ON *MY* FAITH?

I'VE BEEN PLACES IN THIS UNIVERSE YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE!

I HAVE TRAVELED TO THE ABYSS AND BACK A BILLION TIMES...

...TO SPREAD GOD'S WORD.

ALL THE RIVERS AND OCEANS OF THIS WORLD...

...CANNOT COMPARE TO THE BLOOD WE SHED FOR GOD!

I HAVE KNOWN GREATER FAITH THAN ANY MAN, BETHEAL.

DO NOT BE SO CONFIDENT IN YOUR OWN.

...

WHAT ARE YOU?

HEH HEH HEH

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?

I AM ...

...GOD'S MESSENGER.

ON GOD'S COMMAND, I PLANTED THE SEED OF LIFE...

...IN YOUR MOTHER'S WOMB.

I HAVE LISTENED TO ALL YOUR PRAYERS ...

...AND DELIVERED THEM TO GOD.

I ABAN-DONED MY POSITION AS GOD'S AMBASSA-DOR...

...AND WAS BORN AGAIN AS ONE OF THE HUMANS I SO DESPISE.

...

DID THAT DEMON GIVE YOU YOUR FORKED TONGUE...

... TO SPREAD SUCH LIES AND BLASPHEMY?

...!

...

I WILL CUT IT OFF...

...AND FEED IT TO THE PIGS!

THAT'S RIGHT, BETHEAL ...

LET GO OF YOUR CONSCIENCE AND LET YOUR PURE RAGE CONDEMN ME

HEH HEH HEH

YOU HAVE THE HONOR ...

...OF BEING THE FIRST MAN OF GOD WHOM I WILL CORRUPT HERE ON EARTH SOON YOU TOO WILL KNOW THE PLEASURES OF UNFETTERED SIN

ENOUGH OF YOUR GAMES!

EVEN IN THIS HOLY PLACE OF WORSHIP ...

...YOU STILL SHOW NO REMORSE!

HOW POORLY YOU UNDER-STAND YOUR GOD.

GOD'S CONCEIT OF *FREE WILL* MEANS THAT I CAN CORRUPT YOU HUMANS ...

...AND GOD WON'T EVEN TURN HIS HEAD!

HE WATCHES THE MORAL FAILINGS OF HIS CREATIONS

..AS IF IT IS SPORT!

IN RESPECT TO YOUR PAST SERVICE TO THE LORD

...YOU WILL BE ALLOWED 12 DAYS' TORTURE

.. TO REPENT FOR YOUR SINS. PERHAPS IN THAT TIME YOU MIGHT ABANDON YOUR DEMON AND DIE IN PEACE.

YAWN

YAWN

IT IS CLEAR THAT YOU HAVE NO INTENTION

OF ENDING THE PACT WITH YOUR DEVIL

VASCAR DE GUILLON

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOU HAVE COMMITTED HEINOUS ACTS OF HERESY..

AND BLASPHEMY AGAINST OUR LORD THROUGH PACT WITH PAGAN DEMON

I HEREBY SENTENCE YOU TO BE BURNED AT THE STAKE. HOWEVER.

I SEE NO REASON TO CONTINUE THIS TRIAL

AFTER HEARING THE DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS, I HAVE REACHED MY VERDICT

LORD

GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO CONQUER SATAN AND HIS MINIONS IN YOUR NAME

AMEN!

DO NOT FORGET ..

BETHEAL

YOUR OWN TRIAL

. HAS JUST BEGUN

YOUR JUDGE-MENT IS ALREADY DECIDED, MY FRIEND.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU TOO CURSE THE NAME OF GOD.

CHOKE

TAKE THIS FILTH FROM MY SIGHT ...

... AND ...

...SEE THAT HE KNOWS THE SUFFERING OF HELL WHILE STILL ON EARTH BEFORE HE IS SENT THERE.

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ENJOY!!!

SCHWIT.

IN BETHEAL'S MIND, SIR [illegible]

IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFI-CANCE.

...LIKE SIR VASCAR BEFORE HIM, HE WAS OVERCONFIDENT IN HIS OWN FAITH

...AND WAS BLIND TO THE WEAKNESS OF THE HUMAN

BETHEAL

DONG

DONG

DONG

ANOTHER DAY SPENT WITH SAINT MATTHEW, I SEE.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, MATTHEW.

OH!

FATHER GAVARRE !!!

YOU'RE BACK!

YOU MUST KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, CHILD.

THIS IS THE LORD'S TEMPLE.

OOPS!

TELL ME THE STORY AGAIN!

I CAN HEAR IT OVER AND OVER!

HA HA! I THINK I WILL TIRE OF THE STORY BEFORE YOU!

AND HE SAID--

-- MATTHEW !!

"MATTHEW

RECEIVE GOD'S MESSAGE!"

SAINT MATTHEW WAS A POOR PUBLICAN IN A SMALL VILLAGE.

ALL OF THE OTHER VILLAGERS LOOKED DOWN ON HIM.

MATTHEW WOKE UP AND SAW THE ANGEL AND ASKED "WHO ARE YOU?"

THE ANGEL SAID, "I AM GOD'S MES-SENGER," AND SHOWED HIM GOD'S KINGDOM.

THEN ONE DAY JESUS CAME...

..AND MATTHEW HAD NEW PURPOSE IN LIFE.

AFTER JESUS' RESUR-RECTION, AN ANGEL VISITED MATTHEW

...WITH A MESSAGE FROM GOD.

THEN, THE ANGEL GAVE GOD'S MESSAGE TO MATTHEW

"MATTHEW, THE LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO WRITE THE STORY OF HIS SON'S LIFE AND TELL IT TO THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED"

AND SO MATTHEW ACCEPTED GOD'S CALLING AND TOOK HIS GOSPEL TO THE PEOPLE...

...FIRST TO THE HEBREWS, AND THEN TO THE HEATHEN LANDS TO THE SOUTH...

...WHERE HE WAS CAPTURED AND KILLED AS A MARTYR.

AND I WAS NAMED ...

...AFTER SAINT MATTHEW!

THAT'S RIGHT.

AND YOU ARE SURE, MY SON..

..THAT YOU ARE NOT TIRED OF THIS STORY?

OF COURSE NOT!

I COULD NEVER TIRE OF LISTENING TO YOU, FATHER GAVARRE!

HE HE HE

CH'LD?

YES, FATHER ?

DO YOU REMEM-BER .

...WHY I NAMED YOU AFTER SAINT MATTHEW?

YES!

UMM ..

FIRST, IT WAS FOR ME TO LEARN HIS NOBLE, SELF-SACRIFICIAL SPIRIT

SECOND, UMM. SECOND.. OH!

IT WAS FOR ME TO HAVE PURE AND ABSOLUTE FAITH IN GOD!

RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU REMEMBER, WELL, CHILD.

MATTHEW.

YOU MUST ALWAYS STAY MINDFUL...

...OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOD, FOR THEY ARE EVERYWHERE IN THIS WORLD.

THEY ARE THE ONES DECEIVED BY THE DEVIL INTO DOUBTING THEIR FAITH...

...AND IN TIME, EVEN WITHOUT KNOWING IT, THEY WILL BECOME AGENTS OF THE DEVIL.

THOSE WHO DOUBT GOD'S WORD AND FALL INTO TEMPTATION

...WILL ALL GO TO HELL WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

DON'T FORGET ...

MATTHEW.

THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD...

...SHOULD NEVER DOUBT THEIR FAITH.

OTTO
DONG
DONG
DONG

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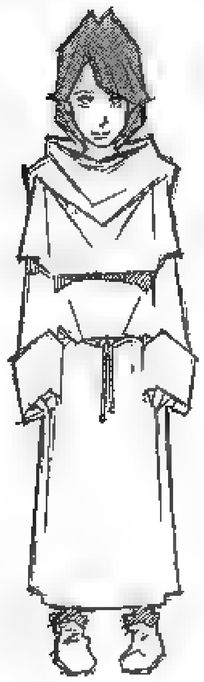
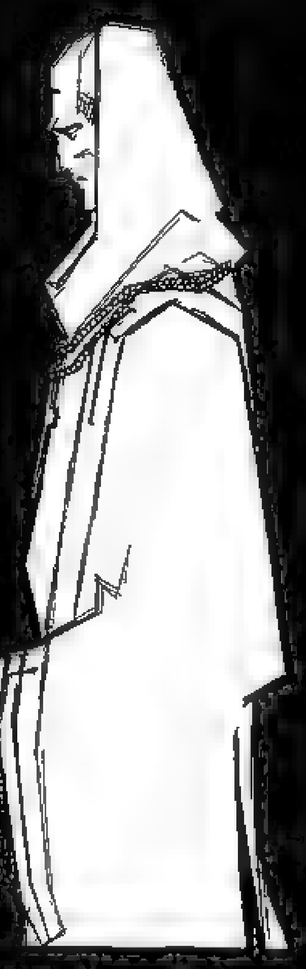
ENJOY!!!

MATTHEW WAS BETHEAL'S...



...ONE AND ONLY BLESSING IN LIFE.

MOST OF BETHEAL'S LIFE WAS SPENT FIGHTING THE HERETICS.



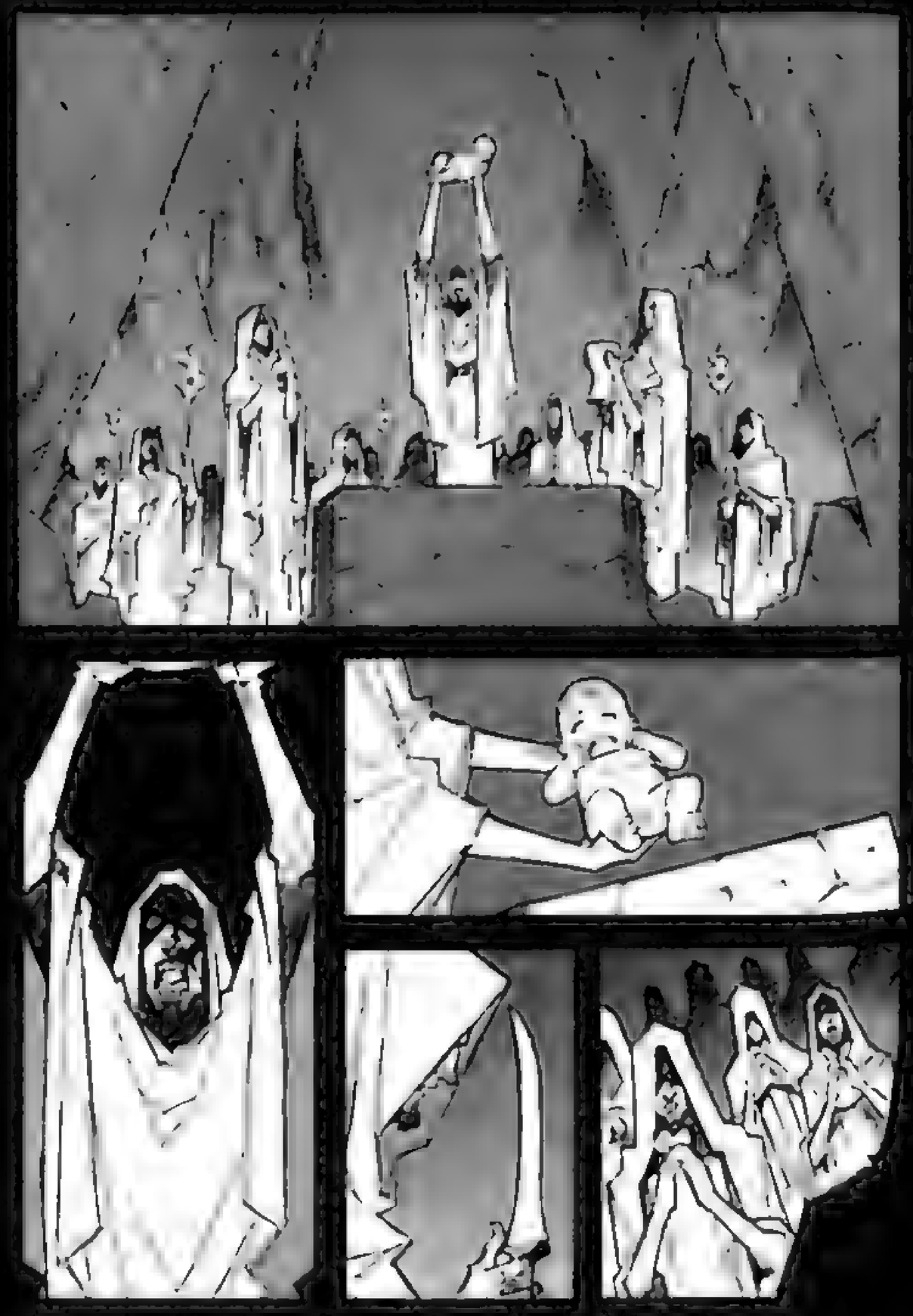
THE SMELL OF BLOOD AND BURNING FLESH WAS NEVER ENDING.

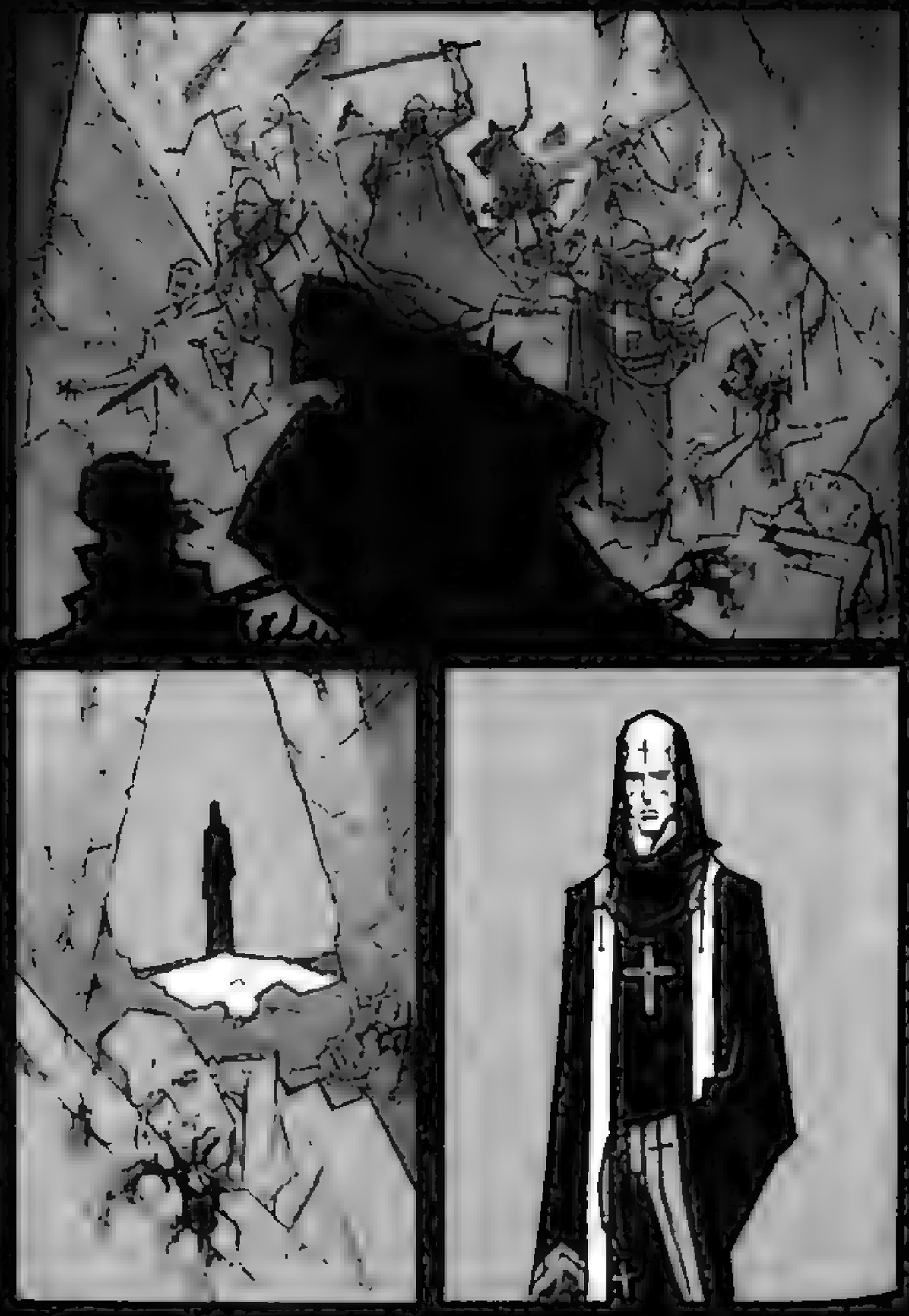
ARGHHHH!

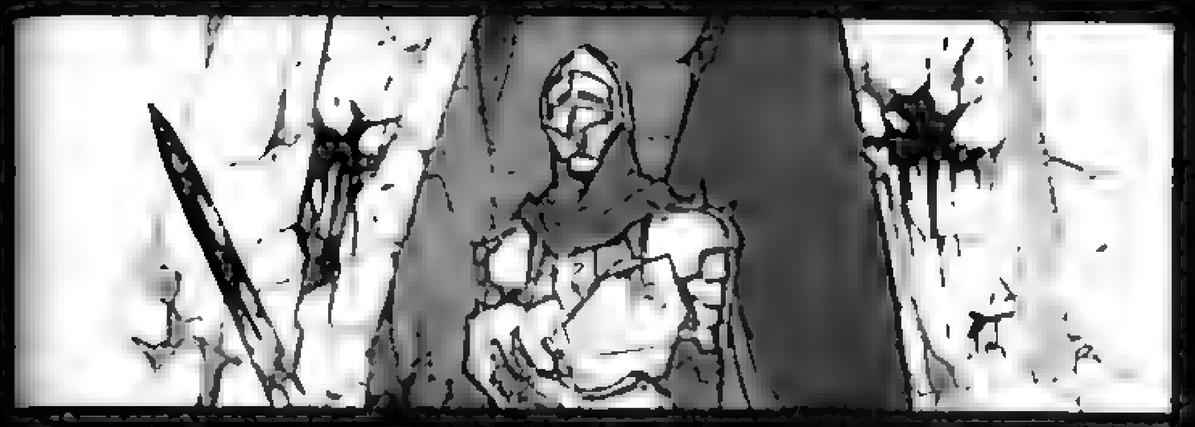
ARGHHHH!

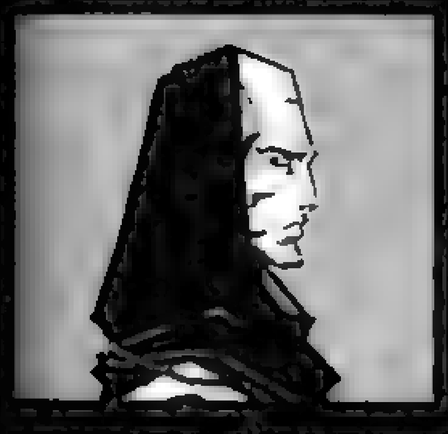
ARGHHHH!

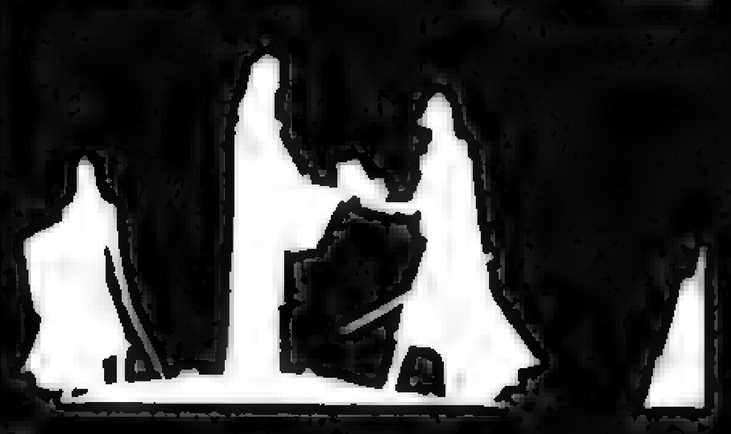
ARGHHHH!

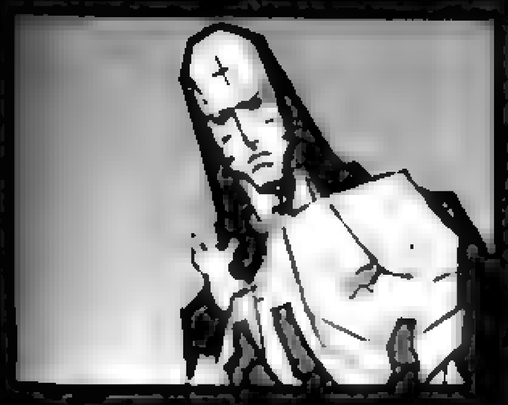


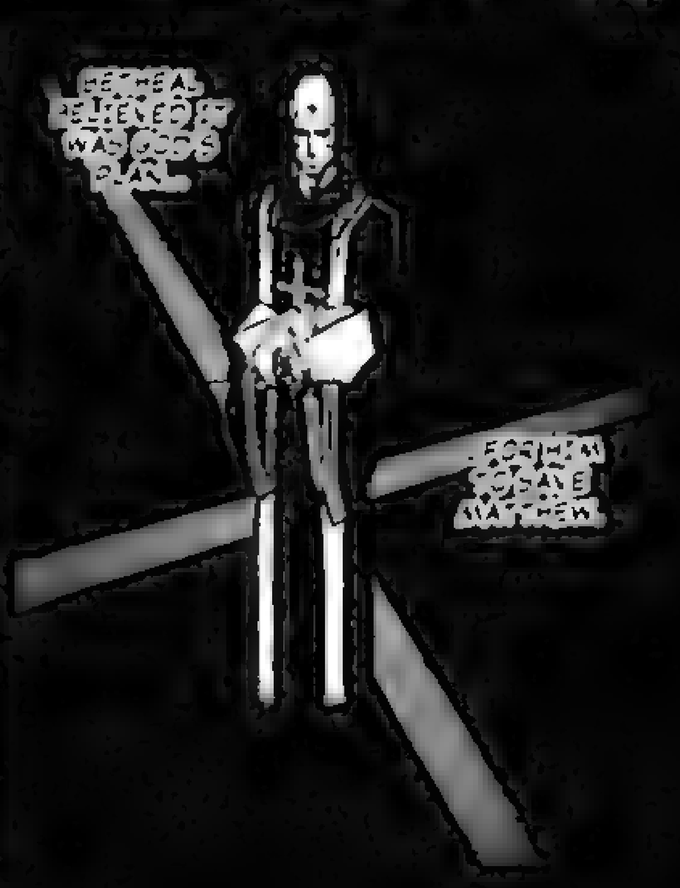











BETHEAL BELIEVED IT WAS GOD'S PLAN.
FORGIVE HIM FOR HE HAS MATTHEW

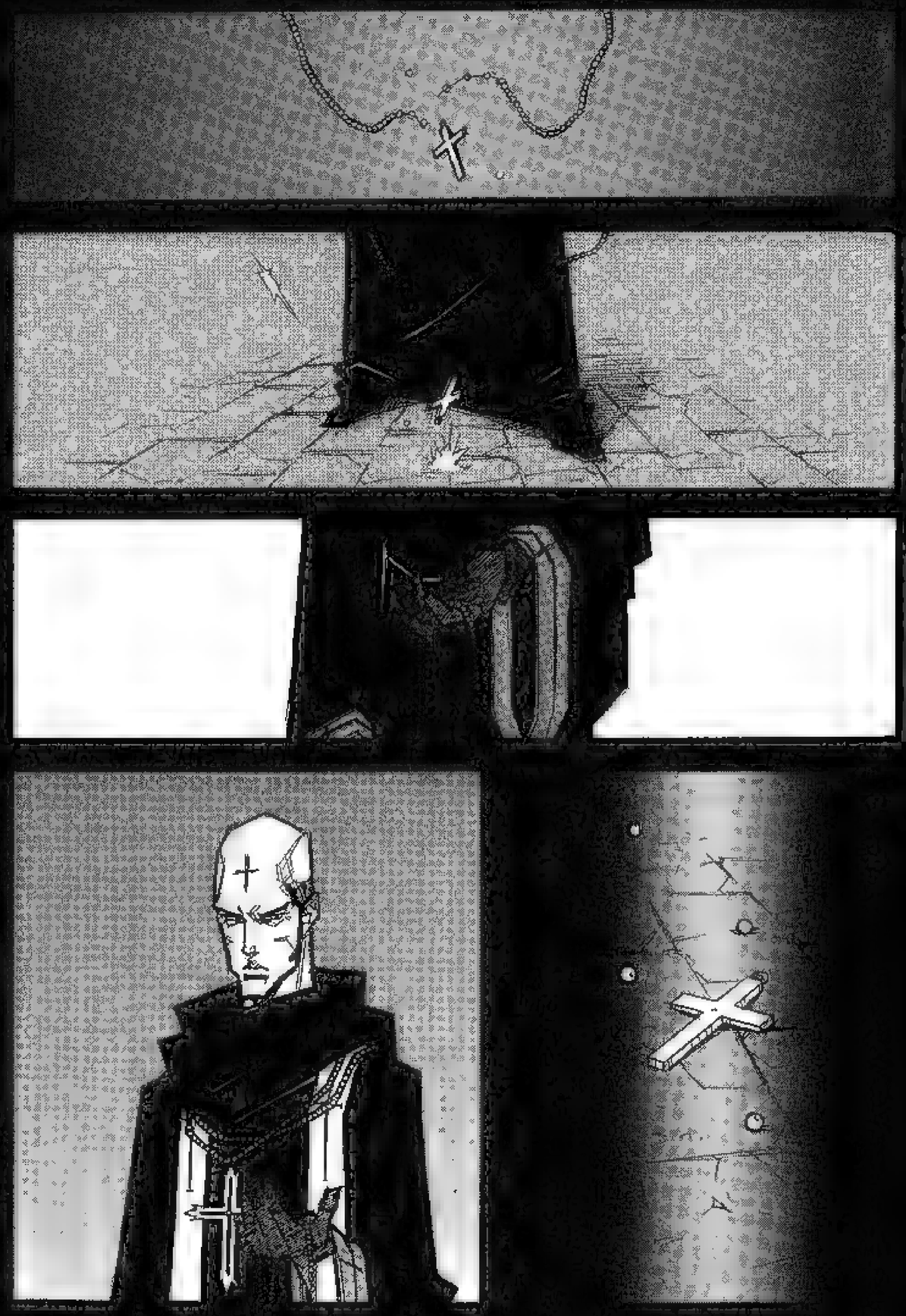
THE WORLD

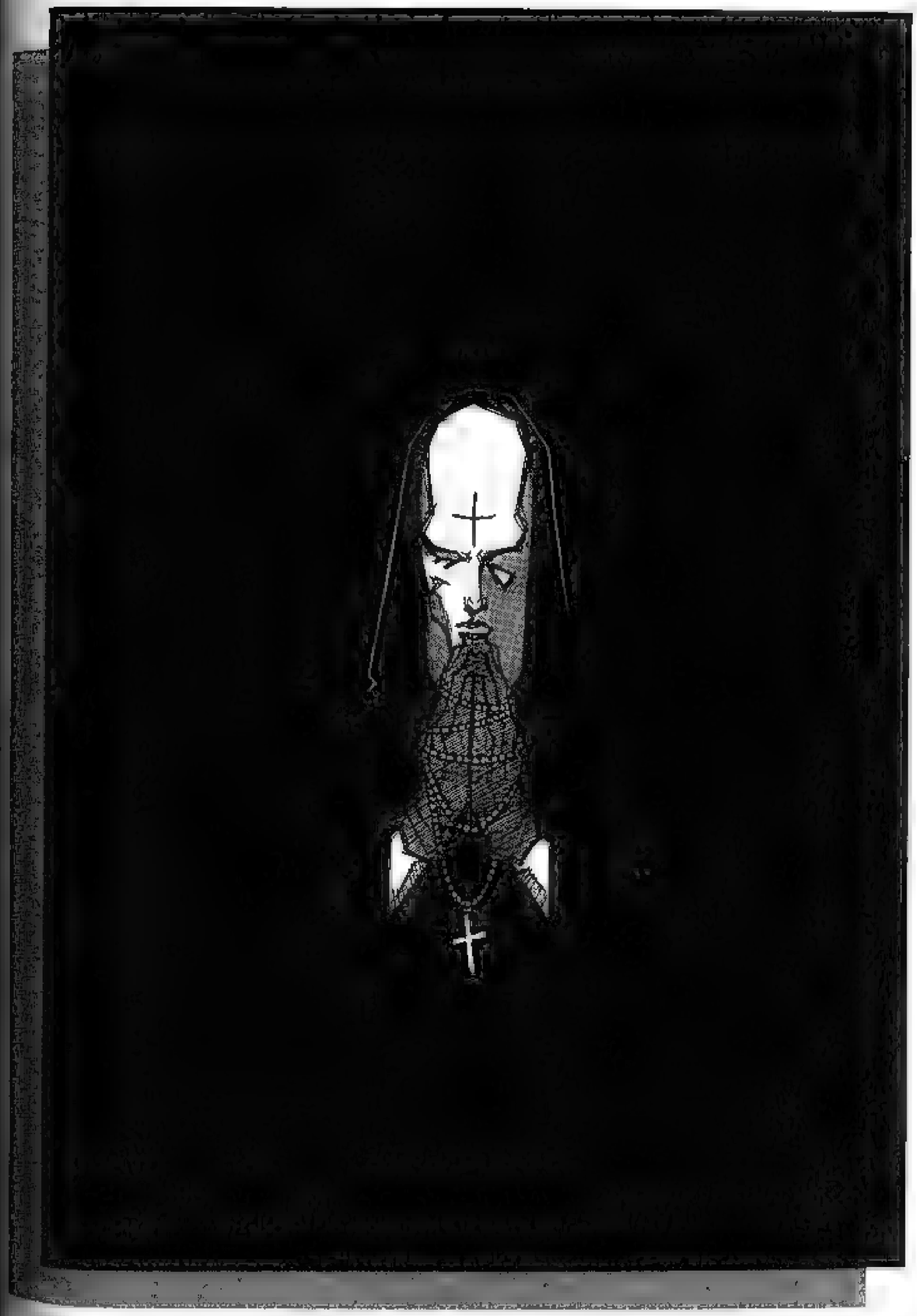
IT WAS ALMOST AS IF MATTHEW WAS A REWARD FROM GOD...

DO THIS FOR
THE LORD AND
IT WILL PROVE
YOUR FAITH
IN HIM IS
PRECIOUS

YOU MUST
NOT HAVE
ANY WORRY
ABOUT
ANYTHING

HE HAS
POWER
JEWS, AND
YOU ARE THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CAN
SHARE IT.





SIRHC- 2004.01.26

SYNOPSIS:

- VASCAR DE GUILLON WAS ONCE WILLING TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR THE CROSS, SERVING AS A KNIGHT IN THE CRUSADES. THEN ONE DAY HE RECIEVED WORD FROM HOME THAT HIS WIFE HAD BEEN BURNED ALIVE BY THE CHURCH.- AND SIR VASCAR'S FAITH WAS SHATTERED, CONSUMED BY RAGE, HE MADE A PACT WITH THE FALLEN ARCHANGEL, TEMOZARELA, BECOMING HIS AGENT IN THE MORTAL WORLD AND SLAUGHTERING COUNTLESS INNOCENTS. WHEN DE GUILLON IS BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR HIS SINS, THE CHURCH SENDS THEIR TOP PRIEST TO SERVE AS PROSECUTOR--BELIAL GABARRE. THE PROSECUTOR FINDS HIS OWN SOUL ON TRIAL WHEN DE GUILLON USES ANY MEANS AT HIS UNHOLY DISPOSAL IN HIS ATTEMPT TO CORRUPT BELIAL'S FAITH.

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ENJOY!!!

SHIP!

CLANK

FATHER GAVARRE!

YOU MUST HURRY!

...!

SHE WAS THE CANDLE MAKER FOR THE MONASTERY.

HER ARMS HAVE BEEN SEVERED ...

AND... AND... HER H... HEART--

WHAT MONSTER WORKED THIS DEVILRY ?!

WE MUST FIND THE HERETIC WHO WALKS AMONG US!

LOCK ALL THE DOORS. KEEP THE PRIESTS IN THEIR ROOMS.

TAKE ANYONE ELSE INTO CUSTODY. NO ONE LEAVES THIS BUILDING.

DONG

DONG

DONG

CH'

FATHER GAVARRE!

COME LOOK!

LAST NIGHT IN MY DREAM...

AN ANGEL CAME AND TOLD IT TO ME!

HE SAID GOD SENT ME TO EARTH

CONTINUE THE WORK SAINT MATTHEW COULDN'T FINISH!

IT'S TRUE!

LOOK FOR YOUR-SELF!

THIS IS WHAT THE ANGEL SHOWED ME.

I DIDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING OUT!

HOW POORLY ...

...YOU UNDER-STAND YOUR GOD.

GOD'S CONCEIT OF FREE WILL MEANS THAT I CAN...

...CORRUPT YOU HUMANS AND GOD WON'T EVEN TURN HIS HEAD!

HE WATCHES THE MORAL FAILINGS OF HIS CREATIONS ...

...AS IF IT WAS SPORT!

YOUR OWN TRIAL...

...HAS JUST BEGUN.

BE...

BE QUIET!

YOUR JUDGE-MENT...

...IS ALREADY DECIDED, MY FRIEND.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU TOO CURSE THE NAME OF GOD.

BE SILENT!!

SHUT YOUR FILTHY, EVIL, LYING MOUTH!!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOUR TEMPTA-TIONS!!

MY FAITH CANNOT BE SHAKEN!

THE LORD WILL ALWAYS PROTECT ME...

...IN THE BATTLE AGAINST HERETICS LIKE YOU!!

IN THE NAME OF GOD ...

...I WILL NEVER STOP FIGHTING YOU!!

IN THE NAME OF GOD ...

...I'LL CUT OUT THE HEART OF ALL HERETICS!

THAT'S RIGHT, BETHEAL. LET GO OF YOUR CONSCIENCE AND LET YOUR PURE RAGE CONDEMN ME.

FWUMP

...

HUFF

HUFF

UGHH

GHHHRR

HHRRRR

GHHRAAAHH
!!!

IVAN ISAACS WILL RETURN IN
PRIEST VOLUME 6: SYMPHONY OF BLOOD

IN WHICH TROUBLE COMES TO STONETALE ABBEY
AND HELL IS UNLEASHED UPON THE EARTH.